



# THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Dull and cold

(IR45p) 40p

## NEWS

**Page 2 in new clothes — though not by Galliano**  
(he's on page 14)



## THE TABLOID

**Chris Evans: the sad truth**



## THE TABLOID

**Bridget Jones meets her millennium**



# Cold light on the children's hell

Britain's biggest abuse inquiry begins: 650 cases, up to 80 staff involved at 30 homes

Roger Dobson

A terrible story is stumbling into the daylight. For years, a countless number of children were systematically abused in children's homes across North Wales. At least 10 are now dead — most of them from suicide. Yesterday the scale of their suffering emerged. As Gerard Elias QC said at the start of the tribunal of inquiry into the scandal, if the allegations were accepted "they will compel the conclusion that children in care in Clwyd and Gwynedd during the period under review were abused physically or sexually on a scale which borders on wholesale exploitation".

Mr Elias, counsel to the tribunal, said a staggering 650 people who were in care in North Wales in a 25-year period from the mid-1970s had made complaints of abuse to police. Around 180 will give evidence to Britain's biggest inquiry into alleged maltreatment of children in care.

"The content, volume and consistency of statements made by complainants to the tribunal appeared cogent and very impressive," Mr Elias told the tribunal, headed by Sir Ronald Waterhouse, a retired High Court judge.

The role of social services would be investigated. "It seems an inescapable conclusion. If wholesale abuse occurred, that some of those in positions of responsibility within the social service departments must have been, at the best, careless as to the plight of many of the children in their care... or at worst, negligent to the point of gross professional incompetence, or even guilty of deliberate 'eyes closing' to the state of affairs which existed in some of the homes they helped to administer."

Many of the allegations came to light as a result of articles in *The Independent* and *Independent on Sunday* over the last five years, starting with revelations about conditions at Bryn Estyn, near Wrexham. The tribunal



Bryn Estyn: home at centre of scandal Photograph: Tom Piston

was set up after we reported the refusal of the now defunct Clwyd County Council to publish an independent report into the abuse allegations.

As many as 80 people, and six police officers, alleged to have been involved in the abuse may also give evidence to the tribunal, expected to last 12 months and cost up to £10m.

Mr Elias said the inquiry would be thorough and that no stone would be left unturned. Any allegations of organised abuse would be investigated, he said. Councils and their insurers were also criticised in his opening speech.

"No civilised society may tolerate such abuse of its children, and no

civilised society will consider those who find themselves in care to be in any different position to those who enjoy the benefits of living at home under the care and control of their parents," Mr Elias said.

He added: "The abuse of a child is not only a most serious breach of trust by the adult concerned, it may well have had far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for the child victim which frequently outlive childhood. For too many, it seems, the consequences have been too hard to bear and suicide has seemed the only way out. At least 10 former children in care in North Wales who have alleged abuse in this period are now dead, most of these are known to have taken their own lives."

He said that the evidence will have significance throughout the country for the safety and well-being of children in care.

He said one of the questions that will be looked at was whether abuse was a series of unrelated occurrences

or whether it bore the hallmarks of organisation or infiltration "by those with a determination to exploit vulnerable children".

He said the tribunal would also look at how complaints were made. "The overwhelming response of those seen by the tribunal's interview team has been that complaining was not a real option, it brought no relief but risked yet worse treatment."

Mr Elias, who continues his opening speech today, said that the role of the insurers of councils in North Wales would also be investigated.

As the tide of complaints reached its crescendo in the 1990s, the loudest clamour seems to have come from the insurers of the local authorities who were anxious that abuse should be debated by members in private.

Reports of inquiries were an encouragement to the bandwagon complaints, and with this approach, what might perhaps be called the hold-the-lid-on-at-all-costs approach, the Clwyd authority ap-

pears to have connived," Mr Elias said.

He said that from a police investigation in 1991, the tribunal team had identified more than 650 individual complainants.

Mr Elias said the tribunal, which is being held in Ewloe, Flintshire, had also surveyed a random sample of 600 children in care and found that some of them also complained of abuse. "This has been a valuable exercise because most of the individuals approached have not hitherto been interviewed by the police or made any independent claim for compensation. They have not been motivated apparently by money, publicity or any external encouragement to complain, as may be suggested by others."

The tribunal is inquiring into alleged abuse in more than 30 homes in North Wales from 1974.

Sir Ronald ruled that complainants and alleged abusers cannot be identified during the hearings.

# Tony Blair's 'stalker' is exposed

Deputy Prime Minister strides into enemy territory to assault defecting captains of industry

Michael Harrison

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, clashed spectacularly yesterday with some of Britain's top bosses after they published a report endorsing key elements of Labour policy, including the Social Chapter and a national minimum wage.

In a gung-ho exhibition of guerrilla politics, Mr Heseltine used a leftish London conference to attack businessmen associated with Tony Blair. The Labour leader, who had earlier spotted Mr Heseltine sitting smouldering at the launch of the report, complained that the Deputy Prime Minister was becoming his personal stalker.

He joked that Mr Heseltine had pursued him to his office to talk about the Millennium Exhibition last week and had pursued him to yesterday's event; if he turned up at his speech in Amsterdam next Friday, he would have to resort to the new stalking laws.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who gatecrashed the conference in London after the organisers failed to invite a single member of the Government, accused the group of being a "front organisation for the Labour Party".

Among the members of the Commission on Public Policy and British Business are George Simpson, managing director of GEC, Bob Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace, Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of Legal & General and David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket group.

Speaking after the launch of the group's report, Mr Heseltine said: "This is a front organisation for the Labour Party. You only have to look at the membership of the trustees and the supporters of the organisation to realise that the objective of the exercise was to enable Tony Blair to be seen talking to the business community. The interesting thing is how few line managers turned up."

Earlier Mr Blair had pledged

to leave the Conservatives' industrial relations and enterprise reforms of the Eighties unchanged but offered a new agenda on education, welfare reform, the infrastructure, Europe and competition policy.

Mr Heseltine then took the platform and launched a withering assault on both the commission and its report, accusing it of "seriously understating" the Government's achievements, failing to recognise the threat posed by the left, using out of date and selective statistics, and ignoring the trade unions, save for two brief mentions.

"I must in honesty, go further. I question the motives of those who cloak their political intentions with academic respectability," he said.

Afterwards, John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress and a member of the commission, described Mr Heseltine's attacks as "pretty disgraceful". "It shows how out of touch with the agenda for the future. He is trying to rally business support behind the Tories but he is fighting the battles of the Seventies and Eighties," he said.

Last night the commission members fired off a letter rejecting any suggestion that they had any political agenda and saying that the launch of their report, "Promoting Prosperity", went very well.

But it goes on: "Among the positive comments, however, Michael Heseltine, in a piece of political knockabout, described the commission as a 'front for the Labour Party' and suggested that we are attempting something to 'curry favour' with Mr Blair and his colleagues."

"We were rather surprised at his comments, given that the commissioners are drawn from across the political spectrum and represent all sectors of British business. We have no party political agenda: our aim is simply to promote British prosperity."

Business comment, page 19



Proximity talks: Mr Heseltine at the meeting, another close encounter with Mr Blair Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

# Virtual bank heralds the cashless society

Jul Treanor  
Banking Correspondent

The Royal Bank of Scotland is to set up what it claims is the first full Internet banking service in Britain, marking an important step on the road towards virtual banking and the cashless society.

The move could lead to a stampede from other banks in Britain to offer such services, and may hasten the demise of the branch network which is already under threat from telephone banking.

Retailers already allow shoppers to buy a wide range of products on the Internet and while other banks in Britain do offer services on personal computers, notably the TSB, the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) claims its service is different because it is Internet-wide and more sophisticated.

RBS, based in Edinburgh, said it intended to roll out the Internet service to its half-million telephone banking customers in the spring. Some 50,000 of its customers have access to the Internet. To join, customers will need a

personal computer, a modem and Microsoft software.

RBS, which pioneered telephone sales of insurance through its Direct Line subsidiary a decade ago, claimed to have overcome the security problems of Internet banking. A spokesman said it would take "longer than the universe has been around" to break in.

The human face of banking is gradually disappearing as new technology, including telephone banking, allows customers to move cash and to

pay bills without visiting their branches. The number of bank branches in Britain has been slashed by 3,000 to about 10,000 in the past six years and NatWest alone has announced the loss of a further 10,000 jobs. But RBS said Internet banking did not mean more job cuts.

Experts say that this type of banking could eventually be used to provide a full banking service, including the transfer of cash into electronic purses, but this is likely to be many years away.

Internet revolution, page 18

## QUICKLY

### Loyalists warned

The Government issued a public warning to loyalist groups that more violence would jeopardise the place of smaller loyalist parties at the talks. Page 4

### Operatic fall-out

Raymond Gubbay, the impresario, has attacked Royal Opera House and English National Opera, saying that they are scared of commercial competition and "arrogant" not to have touring plans. Page 2

### Millwall collapse

Millwall Holdings, the parent company of the second division football team, called in the administrators after shares were suspended at 4p, valuing the club at £14m. Page 19

### Mental care failing

Services for the mentally ill in London are near to collapse and unable to sustain the demands made on them, according to a study. Page 5

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## significant shorts

## GPs demand U-turn on supermarket surgeries

Doctors leaders will today press for a U-turn over plans which could allow supermarkets to open doctors' surgeries, at a meeting with Department of Health officials. The BMA is threatening to attack the Government in the general election campaign for "privatising" the family doctor service, unless the Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, backs down.

Such a charge would infuriate ministers, but leave the Tories highly vulnerable. Labour has been accusing the Government of planning the privatisation of the NHS for some time, but the backing of the doctors would make the charge stick.

Ministerial sources said they would be seeking a compromise by offering movement on other issues, including a BMA demand for a proper timetable for pilot schemes in primary care, before they are introduced nationally.

But the Government sources appeared to rule out any retreat on the proposals to allow private companies to hire GPs. The plan is part of the NHS Primary Care Bill, which is due to go through its final stages in the Lords tomorrow before starting its passage through the Commons on 11 February. If there is an early election, there is a strong chance that Mr Dorrell will be forced to concede to Labour to get the rest of the Bill on the Statute Book.

Colin Brown

## Reducing traffic set to become law

A radical Bill to encourage councils to reduce traffic levels in their areas has a good chance of becoming law, according to its Liberal Democrat sponsors. The Traffic Reduction Bill, introduced by the MP for Bath, Don Foster, would require local authorities to draw up targets to reduce traffic growth for the years 2005 and 2010. It has the support of 220 MPs.

Since Mr Foster agreed to remove the requirement for national targets, the Government has indicated that it will not oppose the Bill, which has its second reading on Friday. A mass rally in support of the Bill is being held in Westminster Central Hall at lunchtime today. Drivers written off, page 7

Christian Wolmar

## Veteran comedy producer dies



The producer Dennis Main Wilson, one of the guiding spirits behind BBC comedy classics like *The Goon Show* (left), *Hancock's Half Hour* and *Till Death Us Do Part*, died from cancer yesterday. Mr Main Wilson, 72, whose showbusiness career spanned 50 years, also worked on *Citizen Smith*, *The Mary Feldman Show*, and *The Rag Trade*. He helped launch the careers of Peter Sellers, Spike Milligan, Eric Sykes,

Kenneth Williams and more recently, Stephen Fry. A passionate believer in building newcomers' careers, he also developed the Cambridge University Footlights for BBC2. That gave TV experience to people like Clive Anderson, Tony Slattery, Emma Thompson and Hugh Laurie. Main Wilson also discovered many talented writers. Two of whom, Johnny Speight - who wrote *Till Death Us Do Part* - and John Sullivan - writer of hits like *Only Fools and Horses* - are regarded as the best of their generation.

David Lister

## Challenge to league tables fails

An attempt by a head teachers' union to challenge Government plans to publish primary school league tables was defeated in the High Court yesterday.

The National Association of Head Teachers had sought a judicial review of the way schools' performance is calculated in the tables, to be published in March. It said children who missed the tests through absence and those with special needs should not be included in the results.

The union failed to demonstrate that the Secretary of State had been unreasonable in deciding on the basis for the calculations.

Lucy Ward

## Jilted killer jailed for life

A man who stabbed his former girlfriend and her new boyfriend to death two days after being released from psychiatric hospital was jailed for life yesterday. A jury at Chester Crown Court found Andrew Cole, 26, of Llandrindod Wells, Powys, guilty of murdering Fiona Ovis, 28, and Ronnie Crompton, 18.

He had admitted killing the couple but denied murder charges on the grounds of diminished responsibility and provocation. Cole had met Miss Ovis and Mr Crompton when they were all patients at the Mid-Wales (Psychiatric) Hospital in Talgarth. He formed a sexual relationship with the woman and became "infatuated" by her, the court heard. But she called off the meetings and began seeing Mr Crompton.

Cole stabbed the couple to death after he apparently discovered them having sex.

He rained blows down upon the couple, put a tape recorder through the letter box of the bungalow where they were meeting and "flipped" when it recorded moans and groans.

Louise Jury

## people



Raymond Gubbay during a break in rehearsals yesterday (Photograph: Edward Sykes)

## Classical maverick cocks a snook at opera's old guard

Raymond Gubbay is a larger than life impresario who has done more than almost anyone to bring classical music to the British masses. Now he is taking Robert Clemen to the Royal Albert Hall, and he is furious. The Royal Opera House has tried to stop his new show, and the British musical establishment is cold-shouldering him, he told *The Independent* yesterday.

Gubbay, often sniped at by classical music's establishment, has been attacking the Royal Opera House for overmanaging and restrictive practices after mounting a co-production with them a few years ago. Now he has returned to the attack, saying the public will not visit "an arrogant" of the Royal Opera and English National Opera to have no plans to tour the country, and that the major subsidised opera companies are scared of commercial competition.

The head of the Royal Opera, Nicholas Payne, had a private meeting with him, he told us, and said "they wanted to do *Carmen* there themselves another time. The attitude was that because they are Covent Garden they can do what they like... It's protectionism, and why should I know how to it?"

Gubbay, 50, once worked for Pathe Newsreel, where he used to hold the lights outside Number 10 Downing Street. He became a concert promoter in the 1960s and has carved out a reputation for his "classic spectacular" concerts with fireworks and lasers, and recitals by big-name artists such as Kiri Te Kanawa and Pavarotti, and The Teddy Bears, which have introduced young children to classical music in a lighthearted and informal way. *Carmen* opens on 6 February and will run for 10 performances, with ticket prices all below £40. It is expected to play to over 40,000 people.

David Lister, Arts News Editor

## Oldest survivor of the Titanic dies at the age of 100

The oldest survivor of the *Titanic* disaster, Edith Haisman, has died aged 100. Only five survivors of the disaster now remain - all of them well into their 80s and 90s. Mrs Haisman was 15 when she made the fateful crossing with her family, who were hoping to make a new life in Seattle.

Her father, Thomas Brown, perished with 1,522 others on 14 April 1912 when the liner hit an iceberg.

Along with her mother, Elizabeth, Mrs Haisman was one of the few who found space on a lifeboat.

Throughout her life, Mrs Haisman was haunted by the memory.

She said last year: "It was a long time ago that it happened, but you do not forget it. I had it for years on my mind. It never goes away."

She also remembered that her father had a presentiment that something awful would occur. "As I



Edith Haisman: Haunted lifetime

was walking up the gangplank, my father... turned white. He had some sort of idea that something was going to happen." She last saw her father standing on deck, with a glass of brandy in one hand and a cigar in the other. He waved and said: "I will see you in New York."

## Mother of missing Zoe protests innocence after release

The mother of the missing Wiltshire schoolgirl Zoe Evans yesterday said she still desperately hopes her daughter will be found alive.

Paula Evans, 28, speaking through her lawyer, vehemently denied she had anything to do with the disappearance of the nine-year-old. The mother of two was said to be "completely drained and exhausted" and

remained at a secret address after being released from police custody without charge. She and Zoe's stepfather, Miles Evans, 23, an Army driver, were held for questioning for 60 hours. Police fear the girl is dead.

Richard Griffiths, the solicitor who represented her during the questioning, said yesterday: "Mrs Evans emphatically says she is

## Parent rebels over truancy fine

A mother fined £1,000 for failing to stop her two teenage sons playing truant lodged an appeal yesterday for the first time in three months.

Carol Matthews, 36, was ordered to pay the fine, the maximum permitted by the 1993 Education Act, after a court heard that Stephen, 16, and Wayne, 14, had not been to their south London school since October.

Miss Matthews, of Forest Hill, south-east London, had until yesterday to pay the fine or face possible arrest and perhaps even jail, but instead lodged an appeal. Greenwich magistrates court confirmed the fine was put on hold until after the appeal hearing.

A spokesman for Lewisham council, which took Miss Matthews to court, said: "Her two sons were at school today for the first time since October. This is an excellent first step. The teachers were extremely pleased to see them."

## briefing

## EMPLOYMENT

## Go on, tell your boss what you think of him

Telling your bosses what you think of them is good for the organisation, according to research by the Institute of Employment Studies. The so-called "360-degree review" in which the individual manager receives "personal feedback" from subordinates, colleagues and customers is essential for the development of executives who can be isolated and insulated, the institute found in a study of eight organisations including BT, the Post Office and BP.

However, the report counsels that criticism must be constructive because it can be "quite devastating". Such schemes have to be "formal" but not too highly structured, otherwise they can limit the amount recipients learn about themselves.

*Personal Feedback: Cases in Point, Institute of Employment Studies, £27, from Grantham Book Services, Isaac Newton Way, Alma Park Industrial Estate, Grantham NG31 9SD.*

Barrie Clement



## AGRICULTURE

## Complacency over rural heritage

Ministers are complacent about the protection of England's most valuable agricultural land from irreversible development, it was claimed yesterday. The Council for the Protection of Rural England said the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had, between 1988 and 1995, failed to object to planning applications involving development on farmland over 10 times the size of Bristol.

And over the same period, MAFF objected to applications for development on less than 25 per cent of the highest grade agricultural land and less than 20 per cent of land involving the top three grades.

"The figures reveal MAFF's continuing complacency towards protecting even our best farmland," said CPRE rural affairs officer, Gregor Hutcheon. MAFF's relaxed attitude risked squandering a vital and precious finite resource, he added.

## SCHOOLS

## Extra-curricular inactivity

Shortages of funds and teaching time are hampering schools' efforts to boost pupils' academic performance through extra-curricular activities. A survey of 62 London schools by Education Extra, the foundation for after-school activities, such as sports, pastimes and even homework clubs revealed 90 per cent of secondaries and 80 per cent of primaries hoping to increase their provision could not do so because staff were already overworked.

The majority also reported serious problems funding these activities despite believing they were vital to students' success.

The findings come a week after government-backed research indicated after-school clubs were as effective as homework in helping children achieve in the classroom.

*Capital Gains, £3.50 from Education Extra, St Margaret's House, 17 Old Ford Road, London, E2 9PL. Tel: 0181-983 1061.*

Lucy Ward

## FOOD

## EU red tape blamed for hunger

Excessive biotechnology regulation by the European Union is perpetuating mass hunger, according to the Social Affairs Unit (SAU). Biotechnology is the use of organisms or parts to create goods and services, such as the controversial genetically modified soya, or the "flava-sava" tomato.

An SAU report says such advances could make it possible to feed the world with an ever-increasing world population - conservatively estimated to more than double to 11.5bn by 2010 - agricultural production will have to increase dramatically.

But the EU's decision to operate on the "cautionary principle" - avoiding any potential risks, is censoring innovation, the report argues. Professor Henry Miller, former director of biotechnology at the US Food and Drug Administration, said: "Biotechnology is widely misunderstood. It is seen as a sci-fi Frankenstein monster."

*Biotechnology Regulation, £5, the Social Affairs Unit, 314-322 Regent Street, London W1R 5AB. Tel: 0171 637 4356.*

Glenda Cooper

## ENVIRONMENT

## Cool times - but warmer climes

Global warming is continuing - despite cooler temperatures last year, according to new figures released by the Meteorological Office yesterday.

The temperature last year was about 0.21C warmer than the 30-year average, which is around 11C. But it is still some way behind the record change of 0.38C in 1995.

The 0.21C change may not seem remarkable, but a Met Office spokesman, Andy Yeatman, said: "Five degrees from one day to the next is neither here nor there. But last time the average global temperature was five degrees lower, we had an ice age. So 0.21 of a degree is quite a significant change."



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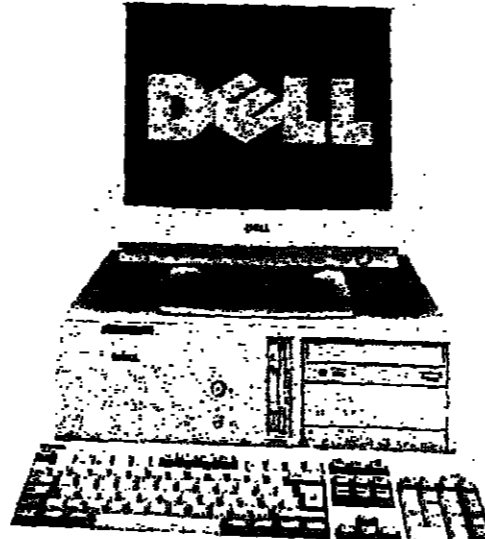
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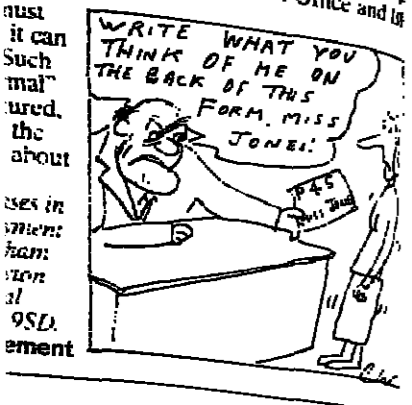
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briefing

I your boss think of him

...you think of them is good for the research by the Institute of Employment Studies, which has been given a 360-degree review "in which the individuals are isolated and insulated, the Institute found applications including BT, the Post Office and 18



over rural heritage

...at about the protection of England's most precious resource, the countryside, it was the Council for the Protection of Rural Land, which has been given a 360-degree review "in which the individuals are isolated and insulated, the Institute found applications including BT, the Post Office and 18

lar inactivity

...leading to a decline in the number of children in the workforce, through extra-curricular activities, such as sports, and the fact that many children are now spending more time in front of the television.

claimed for hunger

...regulation by the European Union is the use of genetic engineering to create a new breed of genetically modified crops. The scheme is known as Earth Balance yesterday announced a £1.3m second phase, about half of which comes from public sources, which will harness wind, water and the sun as power sources for the 220 acre site

but warmer climes

...Iceland, the frozen-food retailer announced the new range yesterday after Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, made the suggestion in an

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...the first half of 1996

...the first half of 1996



Back to the future: Nathan Chapman, 10, examining some of the produce at the Earth Balance site in Northumberland, which has been given official endorsement

Photograph: Ted Ditchburn

# Britain's revolutionary farm of the future: earth, wind, water and sun

Stephen Goodwin  
Heritage Correspondent

Britain's most ambitious green farming project, which its supporters claim is "a viable way to live in the 21st century", was yesterday given the stamp of official endorsement.

The scheme known as Earth Balance yesterday announced a £1.3m second phase, about half of which comes from public sources, which will harness wind, water and the sun as power sources for the 220 acre site

at Bedlington, Northumberland. The complex already includes a bakery and a brewery.

"What started as a fantasy is fast becoming a reality," said Steve Manchec, the project director. "We will show people a viable way to live in the 21st Century."

"We are not trying to create a theme park," said Mr Manchec, although eventually 85,000 visitors are expected to try the "hands-on" green technology and sample the home produce. "We are relatively

pragmatic, seeing whether it is possible to run businesses on sustainable lines without detracting from their commercial viability."

The largest slice of the money, almost £500,000, will come from English Partnerships, the state-funded development agency, Northumberland County Council and the EU Regional Development Fund are also key backers.

The project has a serious practical purpose. It is not trying to create an idyllic hippie commune, nor

a "green theme park" such as the futuristic Earth Centre planned for Doncaster. Drawing inspiration from the Centre for Alternative Technology in rural Wales, Mr Manchec and his co-founders hope to show how local economies can be revived on sustainable lines.

About £760,000 was spent on phase one, including a bakery, a horticultural training unit for people with learning difficulties and partial conversion of the farm to organic production.

The Green Man Bakery started trading last September with a capacity to produce 11,300 loaves or other bread products per week. By 1999 it should be using wheat from the farm and its ovens will be fired by wood from a willow coppice.

Barley grown on the farm will supply the Northumberland Brewery, currently trading off-site but due to move in the summer to a building taking electric power from a photovoltaic array on the roof.

Phase two includes a 60kw wind

turbine, linked to a 10 kw water turbine via a three-acre hydrostorage lake. The lake will provide a trout fishery while a reedbed system will convert sewage into compost.

In addition to its main operations, the farm also has three groups beavering away on their own ideas: re-cycling textiles and making small-scale wind turbines and kitchen furniture. By 1999 it is hoped the farm will directly employ 30 people - two at present - with another 60 jobs created indirectly.

## ... but the carrots may taste of prawn cocktail

Ian Burrell

Cheese-and-onion flavoured cauliflower and prawn-cocktail flavoured carrots are to be marketed to children to try to overcome their aversion to vegetables and help protect them from cancer.

Iceland, the frozen-food retailer announced the new range yesterday after Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, made the suggestion in an

interview with the *Independent*. The CRC has agreed to endorse the products after it published research which showed many mothers have given up the battle of feeding their children vegetables.

Researchers at Strathclyde University found that in many homes Christmas dinner was the only meal when children were fed the recommended amount of vegetables. The report concluded that new approaches were needed to make chil-

dren more friendly towards vegetables. Forcing them to eat their greens did not work and nor did "cunning" ploys like smothering vegetables in sauce or gravy.

Malcolm Walker, Iceland's chief executive said: "It's technically very easy to flavour frozen vegetables. You can already buy minted frozen peas, for instance, and maybe that's something we should pick up on. While kids might not lead the ideal lifestyle, there could be an argument for say-

ing let's give in to it and make flavoured and fashionable vegetables. Whether it will sell or not, I don't know, but we will have a go."

Another idea was to brand and package vegetables in a more appealing way for children.

The research team interviewed nine groups of working-class women with children aged three to 16.

Children expressed an "arbitrary and despotic" dislike of vegetables, said Professor Hastings. They tend-

ed to "graze" rather than sit down to family meals and when set meal times were arranged they could be a stressful battleground. The findings showed that sweetcorn and baked beans are more acceptable to children than other types of vegetables, while soft greens like sprouts and cabbage are especially loathed.

Professor Hastings said health workers and retailers must join forces to alter the "cultural position" of vegetables.

But he accepted that to get children to eat the recommended five portions a day of vegetables and fruit was an "enormous task". Recent research for the Ministry of Agriculture showed that the UK's consumption of vegetables had decreased 30 per cent since 1970, while the trend for frozen food was increasing. Professor McVie said popping vitamin pills into the mouths of children is not the answer.

Leading article, page 13

## Police bugging was a shambles

Steve Boggan

An inquiry into the control of police telephone taps has uncovered shambolic procedures that led to details of 900 bugging operations apparently going astray.

Detectives called in to investigate how a corrupt colleague gained access to secret phone transcripts for a criminal had to trace 396 officers from 35 forces to find out what had happened to secret records that should have been destroyed.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), which controls phone taps under the 1985 Interception of Communications Act, moved quickly yesterday to assure the public that all the records had now been accounted for, but it could do nothing to hide the apparent lapses in security over the most sensitive information available to police forces.

John Stevens, the former chief constable of Northumbria, was called in to investigate by NCIS in December 1995 after it emerged that lawyers acting for John Donald, a former South East Regional Crime Squad officer, had details of a phone tap on a criminal who was paying him. Donald, who should not have had access to the records, was subsequently jailed for 11 years for corruption.

Under interception legislation, senior officers are allowed to examine the transcripts of bugging operations and can make notes to take away in specially issued and logged notebooks which must be returned and destroyed at the end of investigations. However, when he began his inquiry, Mr Stevens found that around 900 notebooks had apparently not been returned. The only administrative system was a ledger that was woefully incomplete.

During a 12-month inquiry involving 12 Northumbria detectives, all the unaccounted for notebooks were either tracked down or "accounted for". Asked whether some of the notebooks were traced to detectives' "offices, garages or bedrooms", one officer in the inquiry smiled and nodded.

Albert Pacey, the director-general of NCIS who called in Mr Stevens's team, said the inquiry had found no evidence that any information had been lost or that any investigations were compromised by the circulation of notebooks. "As a result of the lapse, Mr Stevens has made a large number of recommendations, all of which I have accepted," said Mr Pacey.

Mr Stevens, who examined Customs and Excise controls on phone taps as part of his inquiry, said: "We interviewed 396 serving or retired officers from 35 of the 43 forces and I am satisfied that all the original material has been accounted for. That does not mean that there are not 'phantoms' about."

"I wish this had not happened," said Mr Pacey. "But at least I can reassure the public by pointing out that, as soon as we realised something was wrong, we called an outside force in to conduct an inquiry, we reported ourselves to the Parliamentary Commissioner and we alerted the media to show that we are fully accountable. Nothing was swept under the carpet. "Now, with new safeguards in place or on the way, we will do our best to ensure there are no similar problems in the future."

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## Inmates moved from riot jail

Ian Burrell

Nearly 150 prisoners were yesterday removed from a high-security jail where prison riot squads fought to control a 12-hour rampage by inmates.

The unrest at Full Sutton prison, York, was finally quelled yesterday morning when the riot squads stormed barricades and seized back control of two wings where inmates had been running amok.

As a police helicopter soared overhead, more than 50 fire officers moved into the jail to extinguish a series of blazes which prisoners had lit during the night. Sources at the jail yesterday described scenes of "widespread devastation".

One officer said: "Corridors have been gutted by fire, they have smashed their windows out, offices have been wrecked and the TV rooms have been smashed up. It will take months to get back to normal."

The trouble, which started at 6pm on Monday when the prisoners were unlocked from cells for evening association, is be-

lieved to have started when two troublesome inmates were being segregated by jail staff.

One of the inmates shouted out what is believed to have been a signal to other prisoners to start the trouble. Within minutes the prisoners had taken control of the jail's B and C wings.

There had been tension in the jail for many weeks which may have been linked to a clamp-down on the use of drugs.

Earlier on Monday, staff told governors that a group of seven ringleaders were seeking to spark trouble in the jail.

The prison service said the damage would cost around £500,000 to repair.

Yesterday 146 inmates were being transferred to jails in Manchester, Wakefield, Durham and elsewhere to limit the chance of further trouble at Full Sutton.

The transfers will add to the prison service's overcrowding problems, with the jail population at a record 60,000 and rising. The damage at Full Sutton will cause the loss of up to 200 places for high-security prisoners.

**Test of dexterity: Quarry workers extracting sandstone from above St Bride's Bay in the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park where the quarry that supplied the original material to build St David's Cathedral north of the bay in the 12th century has been reopened to provide for the restoration of the west front (inset). Medieval methods of extraction are being used to avoid damage and pollution from blasting.**  
Photographs: Rob Stratton



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## Loyalists' place at table in jeopardy

David McKittrick  
Ireland Correspondent

The Government yesterday issued a pointed public warning to loyalist groups that more violence would jeopardise the place at the conference table which is occupied by "fringe loyalist" parties.

The Northern Ireland Office said in a statement that violent attacks "inevitably raise questions" over the position of the Progressive Unionist party and Ulster Democratic party. The parties are seen as speaking for, respectively, the Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defence Association, both of which are illegal paramilitary organisations.

The statement is seen as a response to Monday's boobytrap attack on a family in Larne, Co Antrim. A hand grenade exploded underneath a van holding a Catholic couple and their five-month-old baby, but none of them was injured. The UVF has a significant presence in the town.

The NIO had received a barrage of criticism for its perceived reluctance to attribute two previous boobytrap attacks to loyalists, even though security sources held them responsible, and loyalists themselves privately admitted involvement.

Officially, the Government and the fringe parties maintain that the loyalist ceasefire is holding. But it is evident that the NIO has become increasingly worried about its public position, which was rendered highly uncomfortable following RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan's acknowledgement that the first two bombs were planted by loyalists.

The NIO statement said: "The Government shares the increasing public concern that has arisen as the result of recent car-bomb attacks, the first two of which have been attributed by the Chief Constable to loyalist extremists. Those incidents, and possibly that at Larne yesterday, inevitably raise questions

over the position of the two parties associated with the loyalist paramilitaries."

It is open to participants in the political talks to raise the issue, and possibly seek the expulsion of the loyalists, during a plenary session to be held on Monday next. At the moment however the signs are that most parties are reluctant to press the issue.

The Ulster Unionist MP Ken Maginnis said his party would not seek their expulsion, saying there had been a significant contrast in the leadership being given by loyalist political spokesmen and the Sinn Féin leadership. But he added: "Obviously there could come a point when the weight of activity overrides that point of view."

Ian Paisley jun of the Democratic Unionist party said his party was waiting for the Government to take the initiative. He added: "Quite obviously the British government want everyone else to do their dirty work for them. We are saying to them 'You have the statements from the RUC, you bring forward the indictment'."

Relations between John Major and David Trimble were strained last night after the Ulster Unionist leader emerged without concessions from a meeting with the Prime Minister at his private room at the House of Commons, writes Colin Brown.

With the Ulster Unionists threatening to vote against the Government in a Commons vote last night, Mr Trimble's party appeared to be ready to assert its authority, holding the balance at Westminster.

Mr Trimble privately criticised the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, of inaction in the face of the collapsing ceasefire and the worsening security situation. He served notice that the places occupied by the Loyalists at the cross-party talks would be challenged on Monday.

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# Bedlam as psychiatric services collapse

## London runs out of beds as violence rises

Glenda Cooper

London is failing the mentally ill, with services near to collapse and unable to sustain the demands made on them, according to the most comprehensive study ever undertaken into mental health provision in the capital.

The capital is running out of beds, there are more acts of violence, more patients compulsorily detained and higher rates of admission than in any other part of the country, according to the King's Fund which produced the 300-page report.

It said that care in the community services are insufficient to cope with patients that do not qualify for secure beds. There are huge variations in residential care facilities across London and in some treatment is available in only a few areas.

London has been at the cen-

tre of the debate over the treatment of the mentally ill with a succession of high-profile care-in-the-community failures – among them the schizophrenics Christopher Clunis and Stephen Lauder, who went on to kill. A government report last year listing authorities that could not provide comprehensive mental health services before 1997 was dominated by London boroughs.

Rates for psychosis in inner London are double those of other inner cities and the higher admission thresholds in London mean that patients who are not psychotic or have not been compulsorily detained are less likely to gain access to an acute bed than in other parts of the country.

The Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, said he acknowledged that mental health services in London were under pressure, but said that the Government had already responded to the problems. "Mental health has for many years been the Cinderella service but in the last five years there has been a striking shift in priorities," he said. "The

funding formula has been changed to reflect the fact that there is a higher incidence of mental illness in London and consequently greater pressure on the services. We will keep the formula under review and if it can be demonstrated that it is not appropriately reflecting patient need then we will change it again."

But mental health charities said the report confirmed their worst fears and criticised ministers for not doing more to prevent the crisis. The charity Mind blamed the Government's "negligent" underfunding of community care for the "exceptionally difficult circumstances" in the capital.

"For years, Mind has been warning the Government that the failure to properly fund comprehensive community care would lead to a crisis," said Judi Clements, the charity's national director. "The failures highlighted by this report, and many others before, deserve a considered response from government, and not more knee-jerk reactions designed to boost opinion poll ratings."

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of the charity, Sane, called for a moratorium on bed closures. "It is disgraceful that seriously mentally ill people are either discharged too early or are not admitted to hospital for the care and treatment they need," she said. "Instead, they are being squeezed into hospital corridors ... forcing psychiatrists to make intolerable choices."

The report said that delays in getting a bed were frequent, with the average wait for admission to a secure unit being 24 hours, and seven weeks for residential accommodation with 24-hour staffing. The voluntary sector is having to play a larger role in providing care in the community while high intensity 24-hour community services are almost entirely absent.

"The findings ... describe a service in inner London that cannot be sustained because it is unable to meet the demands imposed on it," said the report.

"The crisis in inner London is not due to meanness among London's purchasers or to stick-in-the-mud attitudes among providers. The formulae for allocation resources to deprived inner city areas need to be revisited."

■ **London's Mental Health:** available from the George Godber bookshop at the King's Fund, 11-13 Cavendish Square, London, W1M 0AN price £15.



The human factor: Dr Mark Salter (left) with 'Pete', a patient for 10 years

Photograph: Brian Harris

## 'Schizbusters' in need of a miracle

"It's like a mad game of pass the parcel," says Mark Salter in exasperated tones as he looks at the list of cases. It is the beginning of another normal day as a consultant psychiatrist in Stoke Newington, north London, writes Glenda Cooper.

In the following eight hours his team deal with a torture victim, a violent schizophrenic and a man who believes he is paralysed.

Married with two children, Dr Salter, 37, has worked in the area for 10 years. His team of 20 has 1,700 cases on the books at any one time. "We are supposed to have all the answers but we need a miracle to do what we need to. My team does a great job but there is not adequate funding in London."

From 9.15am the stream of patients begins – success stories like Sara, 16, whose sassiness belies her drug problems, or Paul, a highly intelligent schizophrenic who has knuckled down to take his medication. They are followed by Hassan, a Turkish victim of torture suffering post-traumatic stress disorder after the deaths of his family, and Frank, whose mental problems are exacerbated by paedophilic tendencies.

Outside, aggressive twin brothers – both schizophrenics – have turned up to get their prescriptions. Dr Salter and their keyworker try to calm them down. It is 1pm and after a quick bite in a greasy spoon Dr Salter races out on community visits.

The first is a deluded Bengali woman who is convinced that people are using her flat as a brothel. The second stop is a gloomy flat with overflowing ashtrays and the stench of urine. Dr Salter is seeing Iain, who thinks he is paralysed down one side although he has nothing medically wrong with him. His partner Mary is an alcoholic who rarely moves from her bedroom.

The last case is John, a violent schizophrenic who may have stopped taking his medication. "What do we do?" Dr Salter says. "We have to respect people's rights – we can't just take people in for apparently no reason because we're worried. But then if we don't and he starts taking someone's face off with a crowbar, Joe Public will blame us and say we should have done something." All names and some details have been changed.

## Royalists' place at stake in opardy

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The Royalists' place at stake in opardy

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### 6 The crisis is not due to meanness or stick-in-the-mud attitudes

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## politics

Two more sincere champions could not be found for a more important debate. The passionate Europhobe, Teresa Gorman (Con, Billericay) had tabled a ten-minute rule Bill for a referendum to be held on our continuing membership of the EU. Denis MacShane (Lab, Rotherham), a long-standing advocate of closer ties with Europe, sought to oppose the motion. The result was hilarious. Teresa opened so full of feeling on the subject of being ruled by foreigners, that her words couldn't emerge at the rate that her emotions demanded. They began to build up behind her teeth, weighing down on her

## DAVID Aaronovitch

### Swineherd and wench do battle over Europe

tongue and blocking her throat. Only with great difficulty did sentences emerge naturally or coherently. But even when coherent these phrases were odd, suggesting that Ms Gorman exists in a parallel

dimension. When she met ordinary folk "in pubs, clubs and supermarkets" (I am looking forward to the MP who admits to meeting constituents in "bathrooms, brothels and betting-shops") they did not complain

about the health service ("they think it's splendid"), or schools ("they're excellent"), but about Europe. "The one question they all ask," she informed the House, "is when are you going to do something about Europe?" Until then I had believed Billericay was in Essex, but now know that it is somewhere between the Crab Nebula and the Klingon Empire. Her local butcher couldn't use his old chopping-board because of the Eurocrats, the fish and chip shop had a sign saying "hands off British fish" and one member of the public had repudiated the euro, on the basis that he "didn't want a pocket full of bottle-tops". We all remember, she said, what

happened with decimalisation (hear, hear, yelled Congleton's Anne Winterton). With this clinching argument made, Ms Gorman sat down. Time for a rare moment of parliamentary glory for Denis MacShane. I like Denis; he is clever and genial. And he is also desperate. His almost crippling desire to be in the big league shouts from his sharp suits and shrieks from the crisply folded hankie in his breast pocket. "Please, please, please, make me a shadow spokesperson!" it yells. And there is no answer. It was Denis's awareness of his opponent's tenuous hold on things terrestrial, that led him

into terrible error - he decided to ridicule her. "The honourable lady is an adornment to the House," he scoffed, "we all love her!" Up till now (he went on) the Europhobes had had it all their own way. But, he warned, "the Iron Maiden of Truth will clamp around the farrago of half-truths and misleading phrases". I can only imagine that the erudite MacShane was quoting from an idiomatic Portuguese poem. Worse followed. Ms Gorman was, he said, "a chirruping chimpanzee" behind whom stood "an organ-grinder with a deeper purpose". By now the press gallery (which is full of nature-lovers who know that chirrupy

things are small and fly - and that chimps are big and do not take to the air voluntarily) was falling about with mirth. The Labour benches, on the other hand, were stiff with mortification. When the speeches were over, both sides realised that a tournament had been held - but that somehow, instead of Sir Wilfred of Ivanhoe wielding longsword for Saxon England and Brian de Bois Guilbert brandishing mace-and-chain for Norman chivalry, Wart the swineherd and Etta the bad-tempered serving wench from the great hall had put on the armour and entered the lists. They were not amused.

### PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

#### SCORING THE EXCHANGES

**John Major** 2/10  
Major presented an NHS in a better state than ever as a result of being in Conservative hands for two thirds of its lifetime. Labour's criticisms were dismissed by Major as an insult to the service.

**Tony Blair** 2/10  
Blair's argued that Labour built the NHS, which should be run again as a "proper co-operative service, not hospital against hospital, doctor against doctor, and the only party that will rebuild the NHS is the party that created it". Pointedly, both leaders only presented their stock image of the NHS.

#### THEMES OF THE DAY

Crisis in the NHS (every Labour question)  
Labour's tax plans (every Conservative question but one)  
The riot at Full Sutton prison (John Greenway, C, Ryedale)  
Police (Sentencing) Bill defeat in Lords (Paddy Ashdown)

#### BLAIR'S ATTACK

Blair asked whether Major disputed hospital figures on children turned away from one hospital to seek intensive care at another. Major responded, in the light of the Shadow Chancellor's tight spending pledge on Monday, could Labour do any better without any extra money?

After briefly looking as though he would tighten the screw over children turned away from hospitals, Blair managed to broaden his questions so much that Major easily answered them with broad assertions of his own.

#### GOOD DAY... ...BAD

**Anne Campbell**  
Anne Campbell's (Lab, Cambridge) direct question on paediatric intensive care beds at Addenbrooke's Hospital laid Blair's groundwork. She will earn points from the Labour question-bank.

**John Major**  
Blair said 20,000 managers had been created since 1990. Major replied the figures that the Rt Hon Gentleman quotes on managers are wrong. Government statistics say 20,902.

#### THE QUIP OF THE DAY

Major's description of John Prescott (Lab, Hull East) "The mouth of the Humber".

#### THE UNANSWERED QUESTION

Ashdown asked whether the Home Secretary would note that if he wished to amend the Police (Sentencing) Bill in a more Liberal direction, "we stand ready to participate". Despite calls of "what an offer!", Major declined to accept on Michael Howard's behalf.

#### THE CREEP OF THE DAY

Patrick Cormack (C, Staffordshire South) asked the Prime Minister "Would my Rt Hon Friend remind those who listened with incredulity to the speech of the Shadow Chancellor yesterday, that although imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, it is no substitute for the original?"

Compiled by Ben Saunders

## Lords vote to compensate shooting clubs

Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

The Home Office was dealt yet another defeat in the House of Lords last night when rebel Tory peers voted for compensation for gun club owners who suffer losses because of the ban on handguns over .22 calibre.

Following Monday's defeats on the Police Bill, the Lords voted by 158 to 135 in favour of an amendment to the Firearms (Amendment) Bill which would enable club owners to claim compensation. An amendment to compensate dealers was rejected by 147 to 120.

The Bill proposes market value compensation to individuals for the loss of their weapons and, for higher calibre guns, for accessories. The Government estimates the cost at £150 million, and last night's defeat would add to that cost - or delay the legislation if the Government tries to reverse the defeat.

Home Office minister of state, Baroness Blatch told peers: "It would be a complete departure from precedent and one which we could not support for the taxpayer to be asked to meet losses of this kind which were attributed to the prohibition of handguns."

The defeat came despite a call by Labour frontbencher Lord McIntosh of Haringey to his colleagues to oppose any move that would weaken the Bill or add to its cost.

Last night's successful amendment was tabled by the Earl of Shrewsbury, chairman of the Firearms Consultative Committee, to compensate operators of a target shooting club or association that went out of business as a result of the government Bill.

The Home Office was last night examining the implications of the Lords defeat for the future of the legislation. "The amendment passed in the Lords has significant economic implications and we are studying them carefully," a spokesman said.

Opening the debate, Lord Shrewsbury said: "I firmly believe that the present plans will lead to injustice. Many of the worst hit by this Bill will be ordinary club members who have pitched together to run their clubs or ranges."

A survey of 139 of the UK's 2,067 gun clubs had found that 71 per cent would be unable to afford the new security arrangements required for .22 armours. Returns from 126 clubs had put financial losses at £31 million. "This will leave

many people bankrupt," he warned.

Meanwhile, the Government was facing a tight Commons vote on the National Health Service. Labour claims that more than 400 children have been turned away from intensive care beds in four months were dismissed by the Prime Minister during question time.

The accusations and counter-accusations came after the Labour Party leader, Tony Blair, berated the Prime Minister for the Conservative Party's record. "It is not good enough for him and for government ministers to conceal the true state of affairs," he said.

Mr Major was later accused by a Labour MP of misleading the house when he said that the opposition's report on the crisis was "alarmist nonsense."

"Every child needing a paediatric intensive bed has been found one," the Prime Minister said. The Secretary of State for Health, Stephen Dorrell, said later in a debate called by Labour on the health service that 40 cases had been referred since 1 December, through a new emergency service set up to deal with problems in finding hospital places. All of them were offered at least two paediatric intensive care beds, he said.



Class of '97: Members of the National Association of Head Teachers lobbying MPs in Westminster yesterday against planned changes to teachers' pension rules which, they say, would virtually cut off their route to early retirement. Photograph: Tom Pilstow

## Gorman 'insulted' by Chief Whip over referendum Bill

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Teresa Gorman yesterday said she was "insulted" by the Chief Whip, Alastair Goodlad, as the Government attempted to force her to drop a backbench European referendum Bill which threatened an embarrassing split in the Government.

Mrs Gorman told how Mr Goodlad last week called her into his office to warn her that she would be helping Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, if she pressed ahead.

"I informed him it was never in my mind. It was a bit insulting to suggest that any member of the Commons would be dancing to someone else's tune. I am not."

The Government and Labour front benches yesterday ducked a potentially embarrassing split in both camps by avoiding any vote on her Bill. It went through "on the nod",



Teresa Gorman: Warned she was helping Goldsmith

because no tellers were put forward to oppose it.

A leading Euro-sceptic said: "This has avoided a split on our side and Labour clearly didn't want the embarrassment either."

Mrs Gorman accused the whips of putting pressure on her and the supporters of the Bill. "Never has so much been done by so many on so few. It is a bit of a landmark. I am up against almost a three-line whip."

The whips had gone round the week before warning MPs who might support Mrs Gorman's Bill that it would damage Tory election chances. By Monday it was realised that this tactic was beginning to backfire.

Some leading Euro-sceptics have been reluctant to support the Bill to avoid accusations of disunity. But on Monday, after hostile reports suggested he was not to be trusted by Euro-sceptics, John Redwood told allies he would back it. Bill Cash, another key Euro-sceptic, also announced he would vote for it.

At that stage the whips left it to other right-wing Tories to press their colleagues into line. David Shaw, MP for Dover, who has a wafer-thin majority, was

among those urging unity by not supporting the Bill.

Mrs Gorman was impervious to threats. Along with seven colleagues, she lost the whip earlier in the Parliament over her rebellions on Europe. She was not intimidated now. Wearing a Thatcherite steely blue suit, and accompanied by Teddy Taylor, she held a press conference to insist she was doing it for her constituents in Billericay, Essex. "I could not face the people in the Con Club in the High Street in Billericay on Saturday if I ditched this Bill. They will think I had turned yellow," she said.

"They want someone to put their view across. All the analysts said Essex was the place [where the election was won in 1992] - strong working class Tories with a strong sense of country and patriotism."

"They will be queuing up to vote Conservative if we listen to them and take on board their concerns."

## Police Bill set to be salvaged

Patricia Wynn Davies  
Legal Affairs Editor

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was yesterday expected to reach a compromise with the Opposition over the authorisation of controversial police powers to enter and bug private property, in the wake of the double defeat by peers of a key part of the Police Bill on Monday night.

The climbdown is likely to come ahead of the Third Reading of the measure next Tuesday, following discussions yesterday between Mr Howard and his Labour shadow, Jack Straw.

The Government had wanted to give police the power to install surveillance equipment without having to get approval from a judge, and the Association of Chief Police Officers insisted yesterday that opposition amendments insisting on judicial authorisation would "significantly hamper" police efforts against serious and organised crime.

But attempting to reverse the defeat when the Bill reaches the Commons would be a high-risk exercise because of the lack of a Commons majority and limited parliamentary time.

Government amendments are expected to be tabled by the end of this week. Labour's amendment on Monday night called for prior authorisation by one of a panel of senior judges acting as commissioners in respect of intrusive surveillance on premises and in respect of doctors, lawyers and journalists, except in urgent cases. Peers backed it by 209 votes to 145.

Following his meetings with Mr Howard, Mr Straw said: "I believe that, provided the Government accepts the spirit of the amendment from the Labour Party, cross-party understanding will be possible."

## Foreign Office let arms through

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

The Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, last night accepted severe criticism of a Foreign Office breakdown in implementing the 1994 United Nations arms embargo against Rwanda.

An inter-departmental Whitehall committee was set up to investigate arms trafficking last November after journalists discovered documents in eastern Zaire suggesting that United Kingdom-based companies or individuals had been involved in the supply of arms from third countries to Rwandan extremists in Zaire during 1994. It was alleged that the supplies had been organised through Mil-Tec Corporation Ltd, registered in the Isle of Man.

The arms embargo was adopted by the UN on 17 May 1994 and promptly implemented in UK law by a legislative Order in Council the following month. But

action to extend the provisions to Dependent Territories was not taken until April 1995 and work to apply the law to the Crown Dependencies - the Isle of Man and Channel Islands - "was not treated as a high priority."

The Foreign Office did nothing until August 1994 - "after the period over which Mil-Tec is alleged to have organised arms supplies" - and then, in January 1995, asked the Home Office to introduce the necessary orders for arms embargoes covering Rwanda, former Yugoslavia, Liberia and Somalia.

"The Home Office then commissioned work on the orders, but the work was not treated as a high priority until the recent Mil-Tec allegations emerged," the committee said.

The committee delivered its report on 17 December, and the necessary orders were made two days later - more than two years after the UN embargo had taken effect.

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# Anger at new dial codes for 8 million

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

Plans to change telephone dialling codes for 8 million households ran into controversy last night as British Telecom warned that it had reservations about aspects of the scheme.

Ofel, the industry watchdog, yesterday confirmed that from 2000 the dialling codes for London, Northern Ireland, Cardiff, Portsmouth and Southampton would change as part of a longer term shake-up of telephone numbers who could one day see the UK move from local to regional codes. Don Cruickshank, the tele-

Cruickshank had said: "Once we've put 1 in front of all the present numbers in the UK, no one who has such a number will have to change again during their lifetime."

Mr Griffiths said: "The failure to listen to experts, and the persistent denial of a further number change, makes the director-general's position virtually untenable."

The new system, prompted by a massive demand for phone numbers with the explosion of fax machines and e-mail addresses, replaces London's two dialling codes, 0171 and 0181 with a return to a single code for the whole city, 020. Existing seven-digit numbers will grow to eight digits.

The most radical alteration is for Northern Ireland, where after what Mr Cruickshank insisted had been full consultation a single code, 028, will be introduced. He said he had raised the option of a single code for Wales, but this had been rejected by local interest groups.

But it is the plan to merge the codes for Portsmouth and Southampton into 023 which concerned BT. Mr Cruickshank raises the radical prospect that other UK towns could switch to regional codes before 2010 if councils agree. It means calls from Portsmouth to Southampton, or vice-versa, will appear like local calls even though they are charged as trunk calls at higher rates.

A BT spokesman commented: "We were surprised by this. It wasn't part of the original consultation document. It could lead to confusion where customers are using local dialling to reach another city."

Mr Cruickshank refused to be drawn on the cost for business of the changes, but said estimates of £1bn were far too high. "The real cost would be if cities began to run out of numbers."

## Franklin Gothic

1912: The first automatic exchange opened in Epsom in Surrey.  
1958: Trunk dialling around the UK introduced.  
1966: Letters phased out - no more "Whitehall 1212" for Scotland Yard.  
1978: Last manual exchange went out of service in Skye.  
1990: London code changed from 01 to 071 and 081 for inner and outer London.  
1995: Prefix 0 replaced by 01 in all dialling codes.

phones regulator, insisted the changes would ultimately add billions of new numbers, enough to make the new system "future-proof." But BT complained that the new system went beyond Mr Cruickshank's original proposals, launched last summer, and would cause problems for customers.

Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, Nigel Griffiths, said Mr Cruickshank should be suspended from office for going back on a firm pledge made before the last numbering changes in 1995. Quoting a BBC transcript from the edition of Newsnight broadcast on 6 March 1995, Mr Griffiths claimed Mr

# House of Chanel is a girl's best friend



Stepping out in style yesterday at the Ritz Hotel in Paris, two models display the latest haute couture creations from the house of Chanel. Security was even tighter than

usual at the show, as the company is launching a new line of jewellery in the spring. Tens of thousands of pounds worth of diamonds - including a near-



priceless jewel-encrusted comet choker worn by the Scottish model, Kirsty Hume - glittered among the featherlight chiffon, feathers and lace.

One model, pictured left, wore a revealing creation seemingly made out of thick, twisted white string. Galliano: the fashion king, page 14. Photographs: Ben Dines/APF

# Drivers written off as failures

James Cusick

Half of Britain's motorists believe they would fail if they had to retake the new driving examination. The prospect of 13 million self-confessed failures driving around was revealed yesterday in a survey.

The annual Lex Report on Motoring, produced by the sales and leasing group, found that 81 per cent of drivers support the introduction of the new test, which incorporates a written test. However, although drivers are convinced the practical test still ensures the delivery of safe drivers, 59 per cent think they would fail the current test if they were forced to take it again.

It means that if the Government considered compulsory re-testing, the roads could face a big reduction in traffic while drivers brushed up their road knowledge. As part of the report, the Lex group asked respondents three questions from the written test. A quarter got all the questions wrong, 49 per cent got only one question wrong, and only 5 per cent got three correct.

With road-rage cases in the news, the report found that 36 per cent of motorists want the Government to concentrate on road-rage campaigns. The majority of drivers in the survey admitted to feelings of road rage.

The Government yesterday confirmed plans to toughen laws for newly qualified drivers. John Bawie, a transport minister, said that from 1 June new drivers will lose their full licence if they incur six penalty points within two years. At present drivers lose their licence if they clock up 12 penalty points over a three-year period.

# Schools research 'is waste of money'

Judith Judd  
Education Editor

Taxpayers are paying between £50m and £60m for education research that comes up with blindingly obvious results, Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector of schools, said yesterday.

In his first speech since he was endorsed by Tony Blair, the Labour leader, Mr Woodhead, repeated his attacks on the education establishment which have led critics to accuse him of aligning himself with traditionalist right-wingers.

In a lecture to the Royal Geographical Society, Mr Woodhead had a message for Mr Blair: "The key responsibility facing the next government, whatever its political hue, is to ensure that the old orthodoxies and systems continue to be challenged."

A review of recent research, he said, revealed that "effective leadership" in school is usually "firm and purposeful" and that successful schools "are more likely to be calm rather than chaotic places."

And a £750,000 project last year came up with conclusions that pre-school children learn a lot if they are properly taught and that pupils make little progress in maths and science if they have failed to grasp the basic concepts.

"Do such blindingly obvious statements constitute a proper return for taxpayers' money?" he said.

He issued a strong warning against giving local authorities too much power to intervene in schools, in apparent contradiction of both Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, and David Blunkett, her Labour shadow.

There was a danger that "the business of advice and support will become an industry and will begin to generate a new set of orthodoxies", he said.

But Professor Ted Wragg, of Exeter University's department of education, said: "Ofsted reports cost millions and they are full of banalities, many of which are uttered by Chris Woodhead. It is easy to pick off general conclusions to research projects which are full of detail."

Robin Squire, the schools' minister, said yesterday that the Government had no plans to change governing bodies' powers to decide the length of the school day.

His remarks run counter to reports that the Prime Minister wants proposals to lengthen the school day to form part of the manifesto. Labour said Mr Squire's announcement showed the confusion in the Government's education policy.

# Witness 'out to get Grobbelaar'

The main prosecution witness in the trial of three footballers facing match-rigging charges told a court yesterday that part of his purpose in exposing the alleged malpractice was to destroy the former Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Christopher Vincent, a former friend and business associate, told Winchester Crown Court that he held Mr Grobbelaar heavily responsible, though not entirely responsible, for the failure of their safari business in Zimbabwe, and this was one of the reasons why he went to a newspaper with his allegations.

Cross-examined by Rodney Klevan QC, for Mr Grobbelaar, Mr Vincent agreed he stood to benefit financially from the outcome of the trial.

Asked if he was wholly objective, if he stood to gain financially, he said: "I think when I first reported the matter to the Sun newspaper I was not aware of the fact that I was going to trial, or that I would make any money from it."

Mr Klevan pointed out that

Mr Vincent went to the Sun and not to the police. Mr Vincent agreed he had known the newspaper might pay for what he had to say. Mr Klevan asked: "You were concerned first of all to make sure you were going to benefit financially by whatever you had to say. Is that right?"

Mr Vincent replied: "Correct."

Mr Klevan asked: "If you could kill two birds with one stone, you would do so, to make financial profit for yourself and destroy Bruce Grobbelaar?"

Mr Vincent: "Correct, sir."

Mr Klevan: "You had been his friend, but you were willing to sell the story and destroy him?"

Mr Vincent: "After events in Zimbabwe, yes, sir."

Mr Grobbelaar, 39, the former Wimbledon player John Fashanu, 34, and Hans Segers, 35, and a Malaysian businessman, Heng Suan Lim, 31, deny conspiracy to give and accept corrupt payments. Mr Grobbelaar also denies another charge that he accepted £2,000 as an inducement to influence a match.

The trial continues.

## DAILY POEM

"When the hard North wind blows . . ."

By Rosalia de Castro, translated by Edwin Morgan

When wind is hard in the north  
And fire leaps in the hearth  
And they come through my door  
Hungry, like skeletons in rags,  
The cold freezes my spirit  
As it splits their flesh apart.  
And seeing them go comfortless  
Shakes my very heart.  
Takes it where desolation  
And chains and darkness are.

A child, and already a stranger  
To the habit of tears:  
Misery dries the soul  
And the need to weep:  
A child, already old  
In his gestures and deeds.  
Beggars, how you seize life!  
Precocious as evil,  
Implacable as hatred,  
Hard as truth's teeth.

Rosalia de Castro (1838-1885), illegitimate daughter of a priest and an aristocrat, played a leading part in the 19th-century revival of the Galician language and culture of north-western Spain. This poem comes from Edwin Morgan's *Collected Translations* from many languages into both the English and Scots tongues (published by Carcanet).

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## international

The EU years: A quarter of a century ago today, the UK signed up for the Common Market. So what has it done for us?

# Twenty-five years of the European dream that have changed the face of Britain

## How the birth of a vision has turned sour

It is 25 years since the signature of the British Treaty of Accession to the European Community, now called the EU.

As it happens, this was one of the rather rare moments in the chequered history of our relations with the EU when I was not physically present.

But I was very much there in spirit, having worked with Sir Pierson Dixon, the leader of the official delegation under Ted Heath in the first Brussels negotiations, and bitterly resented de Gaulle's veto in 1963.

During the 1960s I had become wholly convinced that British membership of the EC was essential for Britain and important for Europe.

So the signature of the Accession Treaty was a wonderful moment for me, followed within a couple of months by a call from the Foreign Office to tell me to return from Washington and become head of the (then only) European Integration



**Sir Michael Butler, Labour's EU envoy, looks back on Britain's European adventure**

Thatcher's initiative with the Treaty amendments agreed at Luxembourg in December 1985 in the Single European Act.

But alas, ever since John Major declared in 1992 – no doubt he meant it – that Britain's place must be at the heart of Europe, we have been sliding steadily on to the periphery.

Here we find ourselves in 1997, after 25 years of membership, with less understanding of the issues than we had 20 years ago.

The people of this country have been told by the so-called Euro-sceptics for the last five years that Germany and France are about to create a "federation", a government of the United States of Europe, which will result in Britain being abolished. A majority of them seem to believe this nonsense. I can assure readers that there are no Frenchmen who want to abolish France!

The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 is responsible for much of this. It is incomprehensible. It lays down a very high-risk and rushed route to Monetary Union – a route, incidentally, which it may yet prove impractical for the EU to follow.

Though I may be being a little unfair, I blame John Major to some extent even for Maastricht. If he had not been so intent on securing opt-outs from EMU and the Social Chapters he could have deployed his persuasive and negotiating skills to improving the substance.

Things have now got even worse. Having negligently allowed the BSE crisis to happen, the Cabinet, terrified by the Euro-sceptics, tried "non-cooperation" i.e. vetoing things we were in favour of.

Not surprisingly, this did not work. We have also taken an ideological and negative line in the IGC designed to prepare for enlargement.

The consequence of thus appeasing our ill-informed Euro-sceptics has thus been to reduce our influence to the lowest point ever. It is time for a fresh start.



## Du pain, du vin, du Boursin

**Tony Barber**  
Europe Editor

■ Need some nappies? Or do you need to brush up your Dutch, Finnish or Portuguese? You could kill both birds with one stone these days, because the labelling on the packet will usually be in five or six European languages as well as English.

The same is true for all sorts of food, clothes, toys and other products such as computers, televisions and cameras whose instruction leaflets are in French, German, Italian and Spanish as well as English. The basics of shopping may not have changed enormously from 1972 to 1997, but the experience certainly feels more European.

Many, probably most Britons still carry the stiff-backed black passport that was standard issue 25 years ago. However, it has become increasingly common in recent years to see the smaller, flexible, maroon-coloured European-style British passport whipped out at passenger control points.

The newer passport, marked European Community on its cover and first page, does not transform a Briton into a "citizen of Europe" in any legal sense. But according to those who possess one, it alters one's sense of identity – by broadening it rather than by diluting it.

■ Remember the old television advertisement of about 25 years ago that went "Beanz Meanz Heinz"? Today's equivalent is surely the one that goes "Du pain, du vin, du Boursin".

Commercials have been Europeanised, to the point where a few do not even bother to make their point in English. Sensual French actresses, majestic Italian music and romantic German scenery sends the message that Europe is sophisticated and so its products must be, too. Subliminally such adverts are perhaps telling us something else: that Europe is home.

■ Tastes in food and drink have shifted noticeably in a European direction. Britons drink more wine, more Continental-style

lager, more cappuccino, more espresso. All sorts of cheeses, sausage, cold meats and pasta are found on British plates that would not have been there 25 years ago. Cities all over the country have restaurants, bars and cafés with European names. Quite a few have been opened by businessmen and restaurateurs from the Continent. Even in simple places, menus are set out in French, Italian or Spanish as well as English in a way difficult to imagine in 1972.

■ Perhaps the biggest change of all: Britain is physically linked to the Continent through the Channel Tunnel. Travelling to the Continent, or at least the nearest bits such as northern France, Paris and Brussels, has been revolutionised by Le Shuttle and Eurostar.

Equally important is the flow of people in the other direction – it is much easier and quicker for other Europeans to get to London and the rest of Britain. In 1972, the old joke about "Fog in Channel: Continent Cut Off" could still be told. Not now.

## Is life better or worse since we joined the Union?

**Diane Coyle**  
Economics Editor

Has a quarter century of EU membership been good for the UK economy? The question is impossible to answer without knowing what would have happened otherwise. Still, there are some useful indicators of the UK's progress.

Trade with other EU countries has become more important over the years. In 1973 the rest of the EEC – as it then was – accounted for 42 per cent of the value of British exports. By 1995 that share had risen to 58 per cent. The importance of our European partners is even more pronounced in trade in manufactured products, where they take 64 per cent of UK exports.

Investment by European companies has grown significantly. Although the United States still dominates the league table of investors, it is followed by the Netherlands, France and Germany. The value of investments in the UK by EU companies, having doubled in the first 15 years of membership, has risen from £23.6bn at the end of 1988 to £46.1bn at the end of last year.

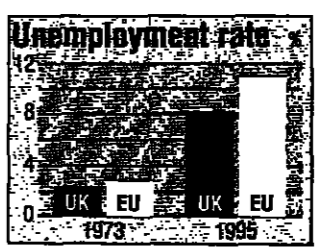
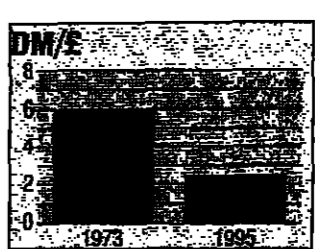
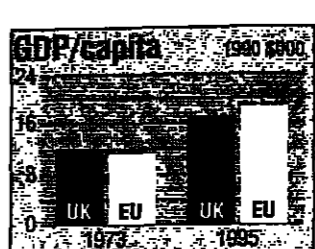
On broader economic measures, the UK's progress has been less obvious. GDP per head has grown more slowly, from a shade above the European average in 1973, to about 8 per cent below average today.

On that classic economic indicator, the strength of the currency, the pound has fared very badly. Despite its recent gains, £1 will buy only 2.7 German marks today, compared with DM6 in 1973.

On the other hand, the flexibility of its labour market means that the UK, unlike the Continental economies, has created new jobs in the private sector during the past decade. UK unemployment was a little below the European average in 1973. Last year it was well below the climbing Euro-rate.

Britain first applied to join the European Union (then the European Communities) as long ago as 1961. But the French, and in particular President Charles de Gaulle, concerned that the British would wreck the whole thing, vetoed the British application after a year of negotiations. Britain had earlier set up the European Free Trade Association in 1960, with other non-EU members. However, it proved an inadequate substitute for membership of the real thing.

Another British application followed in 1967; but so did another French veto. After de Gaulle left power in 1969, progress was made, and in 1970 the EC invited Britain to resume negotiations to join. In 1972 the



accession negotiations were finalised. That meant that the terms and conditions under which Britain was to be a member were agreed between London and the six existing members.

Membership followed on 1 January 1973. With Ireland and Denmark also joining, that took membership to nine. Norway concluded accession negotiations at the same time, but then decided (after a referendum) not to join.

Britain later held a referendum after criticism from the left of the Labour Party. The first referendum in British history, on June 5 1975, showed 67.2 per cent of voters in favour of membership; only Shetland and the Hebrides were against.

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## Gay call to boycott wine from Romania

Adrian Bridge  
Central Europe Correspondent

The UK gay rights group OutRage! is today calling for an international boycott of Romanian wine in protest against what are currently the harshest anti-homosexual laws in Europe.

The move comes just three months after OutRage! activists disrupted a Romanian National Opera performance at the Royal Albert Hall in London by unravelling a huge banner with the slogan: "Romania - stop jailing queers".

Peter Tatchell, OutRage!'s most famous campaigner, said: "We are hoping that it won't just be gay people supporting this boycott but everybody who is concerned about human rights."

"Romania is now the only country in Europe that still outlaws male and female homosexuality."

Under a newly modified law, homosexual relations between consenting adults in Romania are punishable with up to five years' jail if they are conducted in public or if they are deemed to have caused a "public scandal".

The law represents a relaxation of the harsher legislation in force under the communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu but when it was passed last year it was immediately condemned by OutRage! and the human rights organisation Amnesty International as still being way out of line with West- and even East-European norms.

"The term 'public scandal' ... could still be used to imprison consenting adults," Ivan Fischer, an Amnesty spokesman, said. "Under this law anyone could go

to the police and claim to be 'scandalised' by ... the effeminate behaviour of a neighbour."

The new law also makes it an offence for homosexuals to form their own associations or engage in acts of "propaganda" or "proselytising" - effectively banning their clubs, bars, newspapers or any other form of support.

According to Mr Tatchell, the law is in flagrant breach of Romania's promise to decriminalise homosexuality following its accession to the Council of Europe in 1993 and is a serious obstacle to its ambition to join the European Union.

Hopes for a genuine liberalisation of the law were raised in November when Emil Constantinescu was elected as president. He once promised to repeal the current legislation; in office, however, he has not chosen to push the issue.

Indeed, rather than liberalising the law, there are many in the country who would like to see a return to the Ceausescu-era legislation. Romania's powerful Orthodox church has organised mass petitions calling for the return of the blanket ban on homosexual practices, which it condemns as "the tyranny of selfish, barren passion".

Many of Mr Constantinescu's political allies in the governing Peasant Party also take a hard line. In last year's debates on the law, the Peasant Party MP Emil Popescu said that "incest is preferable to homosexuality," because it "gives breeding a chance". Horia Pascu, a party colleague, claimed that homosexuality was unknown in the animal world, except among ducks, "which are known to be the most stupid among birds".



Flames of fury: A firefighter in the Dandenong mountains near Melbourne, Australia, where thousands of people are trying to contain bush fires. At least one person has been killed, 44 houses destroyed and hundreds of people forced to leave their homes. Photograph: Reuters

## Italian farmers go sour on Europe

Andrew Gumbel  
Rome

After living a fairy-tale life of subsidies and cosy government protection for the past 15 years, Italy's dairy farmers have suddenly come face-to-face with the reality of European integration - and they don't like it one bit.

Since 1982 they have been ignoring milk-production quotas imposed by the EU and getting Rome to pick up the tab for fines they incur. But with monetary union just around the corner and Italy desperate to clean up its act so it can join the single currency on time, the tables have turned against them.

A few days ago the country's 105,000 farmers were told they would have to pay their own fines for 1996 - some 370bn lire (£150m) - and would be expected

to stick to European production limits. The result has been a revolt, with tractors out on the roads and farmers threatening a French-style blockade of Italy's main cities. In Milan, the tractors have cut off access to Linate airport, forcing passengers to drag their luggage several hundred metres on foot.

Much of the anger has focused on the same government that bailed the farmers out for years. Umberto Bossi's Northern League has muscled in on the act, portraying the stand-off as a conflict between honest farmers and heartless bureaucrats, as has the far-right opposition National Alliance.

The saga stretches back to 1982, when Rome first fell out with the European Commission on milk production. The Commission, seeking to curb overproduction, set one quota and Rome,

worried about its dwindling agricultural sector, unilaterally set another - thus sparking a "milk war" that lasted more than 10 years.

Periodically there were attempts to resolve the crisis, but the result was always an excess of Italian milk production and a flurry of fines that the government invariably chose to pay itself. It was an unrealistic situation, but one that the farmers became comfortable with.

As the commentator Giorgio Bocca wrote this week: "Farmers got the idea that the European Community was itself one enormous cow for the milking."

Since the protests began last week, the centre-left government led by Romano Prodi has been pulled in both directions at once.

It is desperate to clear one of the worst blots in its European copybook and re-

lieve the public finances of a burden it can no longer afford. But the last thing it wants at a time of Maastricht-imposed austerity is a widespread outpouring of anti-European bile.

Its answer has thus been to plead in Brussels on the farmers' behalf. Yesterday the Agriculture Minister, Michele Pinto, asked his European partners for a more generous quota, pointing out that under the present regime Italy would have to import more than 40 per cent of its milk. Today Mr Prodi will meet the farmers to explain the sudden reverse in their fortunes. The farmers themselves, though, are in no mood to be fobbed off with lessons in the hard economic truth. Yesterday the tractors were still out at Linate and more protests have been threatened if they do not quickly get their way.

## French railways take new track

Mary Dejevsky  
Paris

After months of hesitation, the French government has finally plucked up the courage to start overhauling the country's technically pioneering, but heavily loss-making, state railway company, SNCF. The project, however, is far less ambitious than was envisaged 18 months ago and leaves SNCF with its public status and monopoly unquestioned, at least for the time being.

Under a bill presented to parliament yesterday, the company is to be split into two: Réseau Ferré National (RFN), a state-owned version of the British Railtrack, will own and take responsibility for the track and infrastructure, and a revamped SNCF will be responsible for running and managing the trains.

RFN will take over the bulk of SNCF's debt to the tune of 134 billion francs, and receive a government subsidy of FR8bn in the first year to offset interest payments. SNCF will have to pay RFN for the use of the track, while RFN will have to pay SNCF for managing it.

Six "volunteer" regions are to take over the running of local railway services on an experimental - and "fully reversible" - basis.

The railways bill, in approximately its present form, was to have been presented in October, but was delayed without explanation amid reports that officials judged the industrial climate too volatile. In autumn 1995, train drivers brought the national rail network to a halt and spearheaded six weeks of public sector protest that immobilised the country and threatened to topple the government.

That the government has now presented the bill - albeit starting with the upper house (the Senate), which is a "safer" bet for its first reading than the National Assembly - is a sign of its confidence that the sting of trade union protest might now have been drawn.

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Lines of argument: A traffic policeman separating nuns and riot police in Seoul yesterday during a rally against the new labour laws. The nuns were joined by hundreds of priests and Buddhist monks. Below, President Kim greeting the opposition party leader Kim Dae Jung before their talks on ending the strikes

## Koreans strike blow for workers' rights

Richard Lloyd Parry  
Seoul

In a sudden and uncharacteristic submission to popular pressure, the South Korean President, Kim Young Sam, agreed yesterday to reconsider controversial labour laws which have provoked a month of nationwide strikes.

During a meeting at the presidential Blue House, Mr Kim told opposition leaders that the National Assembly would be allowed to rewrite the laws, which postpone the right of workers to form free trade unions, and make it easier for companies to lay them off.

Also subject to revision will be amendments to the national security law giving new powers to the Korean intelligence agency.

The President promised that trade union leaders, who are wanted by police for organising the strikes, will not be seized

from their sanctuary in Seoul's Roman Catholic cathedral.

Kim Dae Jung, head of the chief opposition party, the National Council for New Politics, said: "Today's meeting was not a total solution but there was some advance. President Kim Young Sam showed an attitude of wanting to solve the problems together with opposition parties."

The announcement represents an unexpected U-turn for the government, which appeared to have been gaining the upper hand in the month-long dispute.

After a patchy response to a general strike call last week, the leaders of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU) announced last Saturday that they would limit their action to one day a week, with an all-out strike planned for next month if the government fails to give in to their demands.



But in the face of dismal popularity ratings, intensifying international pressure and mounting damage to industry, Mr Kim appears to have decided to cut his losses.

The President's about-turn

requires entrants to recognise the right of workers to form trade unions, and yesterday's announcement will take the edge off growing criticism among other member governments.

But the battle is by no means over; both the KCTU and the officially sanctioned Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU) were dismissive of yesterday's announcement and promised to keep pressure up until the labour law is completely withdrawn.

"We are very disappointed," the KCTU secretary-general Kwon Young Kil said. "The talks today have not solved any of the basic problems, and are far from what the Korean people demanded."

A spokesman for the smaller opposition party, the United Liberal Democrats, predicted "a complete breakdown" in discussions on the dispute. "The President showed that there is

a huge gulf between us in the way he interprets the current situation, and he was not sincere at all," Ahn Taejoo said.

The strikes are already estimated to have cost more than \$3bn (£1.8bn) in lost production, and resolving them will not become any easier for the government over the next few weeks.

When the university term begins again next month, there are likely to be new protests from Korea's highly active student population against the new national security law, which was drafted in response to left-wing protests on campuses last summer.

Next March, union discontent will find a new focus in the annual round of spring wage negotiations. President Kim's single five-year term expires at the end of this year, and the competition is already gathering among members of his party to succeed him after elections next December.

## Critics lash out at 'fascist' HK laws

Stephen Vines  
Hong Kong

China is facing an unprecedented barrage of criticism over plans to repeal human rights laws in Hong Kong following the transfer of sovereignty on 1 July.

Chinese officials were taken aback by the storm of protest which erupted this week because much of it came from supporters who rarely publicise their misgivings about Chinese policy.

Moreover, the government in Peking and its advisers believed they had already laid the ground for plans to neuter the Bill of Rights and reintroduce some antiquated colonial legislation which imposes curbs on the freedom of assembly and the right to form associations.

For the first time in many years nearly all newspapers in the colony, most of which have become increasingly supine in their coverage of Chinese policy, have come out strongly against the planned changes. The Chinese language *Express News*, for example, warned China against reimposing "fascist laws".

In another commentary, the pro-Peking *Sing Pao* newspaper said that the law reform proposals, which come from a Chinese advisory committee with Hong Kong members, posed a test of leadership for Tung Chee-hwa, who will head the first post-colonial government. It stated that the changes were against the will of the people of Hong Kong and that Mr Tung should therefore pay attention to these views - rather than those of advisers who wanted to turn back the clock on human rights legislation.

The law reform proposals are part of a wider exercise designed to identify and abolish laws with a colonial tinge and remove legislation seen as contradicting the Basic Law, the mini-constitution for the new Hong Kong.

The exercise has been so thoroughgoing that China is even proposing to scrap legislation which brought Hong Kong onto the Gregorian calendar system, as opposed to the Julian system which ceased

to be used in Britain in 1752. The Gregorian calendar was adopted because it was more accurate than the Julian calendar. This piece of legal amendment seems to be more a product of over zealous action to purge laws regarded as colonial, rather than a politically motivated move.

Although the proposed changes in the law have not been endorsed by any decision-making body they have already been endorsed by senior Chinese officials. Chen Zuo'er, one of China's negotiators with Britain over Hong Kong transitional matters, said that the changes would put "history back on the right track".

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday that as the Hong Kong government had made unilateral changes to laws which would be in force following the handover of power, it was necessary to bring these laws back into line. Ultimately the new laws will have to be presented to a new legislature which has been virtually hand-picked by China. Nevertheless some of its members have expressed unease about the changes.

Liu Yin-chu, a lawyer, and a member of China's National People's Congress, questioned why it was proposed to bring back oppressive public order laws which had been abolished by the Legislative Council. She said that these proposals would damage Hong Kong's image overseas.

The Governor Chris Patten, described the changes as striking "at the heart of Hong Kong liberties". Britain will be making a formal protest.

Although the recommendations cover the scrapping of 16 laws and the amendment of 9 others, some recent changes to Hong Kong law have remained unscathed. Pro-Peking supporters in the rural areas are furious that the new law giving women land-inheritance rights has not been abolished.

The Legislative Council, which, along with all organs of elected government, will be scrapped under the proposals, will meet on Friday to consider its response.

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## Yeltsin illness 'a threat to Russia', warns aide

Phil Reeves  
Moscow

Anatoly Chubais, Boris Yeltsin's chief-of-staff, has admitted in a rare interview that the President's illness is threatening the stability of Russia.

Mr Chubais, Russia's most powerful official, made little attempt to play down Mr Yeltsin's condition during a lengthy interview in the *Trud* (Labour) newspaper, published yesterday.

The aide, whom many believe is running the government, did not suggest Mr Yeltsin should stand down. But he confirmed that a facsimile presidential signature is being used for many documents, although not for presidential decrees.

"It does make things more complicated, both in terms of day-to-day work and in terms of undermining stability in the country as a whole," he said.

Mr Chubais stressed that no key government decisions had been postponed, and that, unlike last year, there has been no damaging infighting at the top. Mr Chubais, considered a pro-Western reformer, attacked the *West* for seeking to throw a "corridor sanitaire" around Russia, from Azerbaijan to the Baltics, through Nato expansion.

His comments will add to the growing sentiment in Russia that the time may be approaching when Mr Yeltsin will be forced to retire. Yesterday, the respected *Naczisimaya Gazeta*

said the political establishment was looking for a successor.

"Both the opposition and Yeltsin's supporters have clearly demonstrated their alienation from the President," said the newspaper, noting that when Mr Yeltsin was in hospital, a clutch of his ministers and officials, including the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, went on leave. Doubts about Mr Yeltsin's comeback after months of illness deepened two weeks ago when he was admitted to hospital with pneumonia.

The President returned to his residence outside Moscow on Monday, but his aides have fought shy of predicting when he would return to full-time work in the Kremlin.

## Gingrich fined \$300,000 for 'political jaywalking'

Rupert Cornwell  
Washington

The US House of Representatives yesterday moved to wrap up a wrenching two-year investigation of Newt Gingrich by imposing punishment - unprecedented for a Speaker - of an official reprimand and a \$300,000 (£180,000) fine for violating its ethics rules and then misleading the Congressional committee investigating his case.

Thus has been struck, after a perfunctory debate which Mr Gingrich did not attend, a weary peace between Democrats demanding that the Speaker step down, and his Republican colleagues who maintained his offences were trivial: "political

jaywalking" in the words of one key supporter.

Yesterday's vote came after the publication of a report by the House Ethics Committee, which found that Mr Gingrich "over a number of years and in a number of situations" had breached the normal boundaries of congressional conduct - most recently by using tax-exempt funds for financing a highly partisan college course, and then providing the committee with wrong information.

Just before Christmas, a chastened Mr Gingrich admitted wrongdoing. In essence, he struck a deal with the Committee by accepting a reprimand, a sanction that allows him to become the

first Republican in 68 years to serve a second consecutive two-year term in the Speaker's chair.

But controversy, and uncertainty over his future, could easily resurface if the Speaker takes the advice of some of his followers, and tries to pay the fine with unused campaign funds instead of from his own pocket.

Alternatively, the tax authorities may choose to press charges for wrongful use of tax-exempt funds.

With many Republicans already highly uneasy about having voted to re-elect him on 7 January, either development could prove fatal for Mr Gingrich.

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# Clinton's mood music spreads harmony

The American presidency is best understood, according to Theodore Roosevelt, as a "bully pulpit". Roosevelt could be a plain, straightforward bully – he ordered the bombardment of Havana, for instance. But by bully pulpit, he meant that the American president leads most effectively by reflecting back to the American people their better selves. That was also, in essence, the project of another Roosevelt, Franklin, who projected an America which could advance only by putting its faith in government. Then the tide turned and another kind of preaching became popular in the White House, as Reagan and Bush, rhetorical advocates of stern self-reliance, tried to repeal FDR's New Deal-based state.

And how, after his second inaugural speech from the steps of the Capitol this week, does Bill Clinton fit in – a man whose better self has from time to time been hard to make out in the mud-flinging of Nineties Washington? He did something remarkable. He declared that conflict between statist and anti-statists, the 20th-century battle of the bully pulpits, to be over. We have, he said, resolved a great debate over the role of government. Clinton used his great platform to express a moderate sense of the limits on government action and of government's continuing vitality – government strong enough to give us the tools to solve our problems

for ourselves, as the president put it. Inaugural speeches are not summaries of policy. This was not even a statement of legislative intent. It was mood music. Yet, addressed to Americans as it was, President Clinton's speech also matters to us, on this side of the Atlantic.

The trivial reason is that one way or another our culture and horizons are formed by the domestic condition of the United States. There is another reason, germane this week as the contents of Gordon Brown's extraordinary fiscal promises are digested. Bill Clinton is an inescapable point of reference in the map of possible futures for the centre left or progressive politics in this country. What he has done, and may yet do, are possible compass-points for our Labour and Liberal Democrat parties.

Let's put on one side Whitewater, Paula Jones and the sleaze which clings to this president like drying slime to an Everglades gator. What Governor Bill Clinton may or may not have done in hotel rooms in the state capital of Arkansas is irrelevant to his conduct as President, or at least no more relevant than if one tried to judge Harry Truman's actions during the Korean war in the light of his conduct as a Missouri judge. The American people voted Clinton back, unseen "distinguishing characteristics" and all.

That does not mean the slate is clean.

Clinton's domestic accomplishments during his first term are not negligible, though they owe a great deal to fortuitous economic circumstances and generally good judgements by the chairman of the Federal Reserve. But the omissions are equally great: conspicuous failure to deal with the costs of ageing; the abandonment of health reform; the incarceration of a growing proportion of the youth, and specifically young blacks, without commensurate effect on crime.

For all that, the President's second-term inaugural is a speech worth hearing with open ears. To British listeners,

a phrase such as "the great natural bounty of our water, air and majestic land" is bombast. What they ought to hear is the recapitulation by William Jefferson Clinton of the second president's sense of a new continental power, unbounded in time and unconstrained by geography, destined for greatness.

This style of speech-making is alien to us in our cramped island, especially the way a US president can reach out to all his fellow countrypeople on the basis of common aspiration – for ultimately, perhaps, the only thing that Americans have in common is an idea

of onwads and upwards towards Jeffersonian goals of happiness.

Yet isn't that basic political optimism what will always distinguish the political centre and left from the right – a conviction that government has a role to play in securing for individuals and for groups the means for advancement? The political trick, in this post-New Deal era, is to create a kind of government action that does not involve more spending or more officials or even more law-making.

In a world where the pressures are for slightly smaller states, that is essential. But it is practical too? Three themes – fairness, inclusiveness and renewal – sang through Clinton's speech. These are aspirations; but they are richly suggestive. What Clinton is saying is that government has a role – in the lives of both individuals and their civil society – as a source and guarantor of fairness and inclusiveness. The job of the party of the centre left is to win power in order to make the conditions of life fairer. To be an American, in the Clinton perspective, is to resent and, by implication, seek to demolish those structures that exclude people. The party of the centre left is thus the party of equal access, women's advancement, intolerance of racial discrimination, striving to enact policies (welfare to work, child benefit, education, etc) that emancipate the underclass.

This is a new politics of values,

which is harder-edged than mere talk or blather. It is a new bully pulpit, with a social mission attached. And it is inspiring – at least to us. It is a reminder to all those who have assumed that Gordon Brown is in some way the gravedigger of progressive British politics that there are other ways of being "progressive" than simply tax-raising or big-spending. For the centre left generally, as for the scandal-hit but re-elected William Jefferson Clinton, there is political life after death.

## Ban sprouts, and kids will eat them

It sounds like a master-stroke. Unable to persuade the nation's grumpy youth to swallow frozen vegetables, one store has come up with a new gimmick. Watch out for cheese-and-onion-flavoured cauliflower and prawn-cocktail-flavoured carrots. But hang on a minute. Can picky infant eating habits really be solved simply by dressing gruesome greens up as crisps? If it were as easy as that, weary parents would have cottoned on decades ago by drenching vegetables in one of the most popular crisp flavours of all – good old salt and vinegar. We have a horrible feeling that the only way to persuade young people to turn to vegetables is to ban them.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UN closure of camp betrays refugee rights

Sir: In defiance of the growing chorus of international criticism by human rights and aid organisations, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plans to shut down the Atrush refugee camp in south Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

Atrush is no ordinary camp. It is the only sanctuary for approximately 15,000 Kurds from north Kurdistan (south-east Turkey) who fled the destruction of their villages and torture and brutal persecution carried out by Turkish soldiers and gendarmes.

The closure of this camp, which has an internationally recognised status, by the High Commissioner for Refugees is tantamount to denying these refugees the minimum internationally recognised humanitarian standards of treatment. It also betrays a callous contempt for human rights.

This policy is in stark and revealing contrast to that pursued by the United States and the United Nations last year, when 7,500 Kurds and their families who worked with the operation Provide Comfort were hastily evacuated via Guam to the US, to protect them from possible reprisals by Saddam Hussein's regime.

But for the Kurds from Turkey, new standards and different criteria apply. 15,000 Kurdish refugees are now quietly and expeditiously sacrificed to suit Turkey's barbaric aims, with the apparent approval of the UNHCR following Ankara's intervention in Washington. We appeal to the UNHCR to immediately stop its plan to close the camp.

Lord AVEBURY  
Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Group  
Lord REA  
Lord McNAIR  
Baroness GOULD  
Lord HYLTON  
JOHN AUSTIN-WALKER MP  
(Woolwich, Lab)  
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MICHAEL FEENEY  
Refugee Adviser for Cardinal Hume  
JOHN JOSSET  
Policy Officer for Refugees, Catholic Bishops Conference England and Wales  
Peace in Kurdistan campaign  
London NW3



### Read his lips: no fair taxes

Sir: As a higher-rate taxpayer, and by no means a left-winger, I am appalled at Gordon Brown's commitment not to increase standard and higher rates of income tax ("No new taxes? Read his lips", 21 January).

One of my hopes for a change of government, any change, had been for a reversal of the socially divisive and regressive tax system of recent years. In particular I had looked forward to a shift, even if the total tax burden was left unchanged, from indirect to direct taxation.

By not taking account of anyone's ability to pay, VAT hits the poor more than the better-off. And corporation tax is very low by international standards. Unless spending is to be cut by unacceptable amounts, direct taxes must be increased and VAT reduced.

MM STEINER  
Deddington, Oxfordshire

### Read his lips: no fair taxes

Sir: Your leading article (20 January) was "intrigued" that no one has denied that Paddy Ashdown and Tony Blair have had discussions about Cabinet seats. You should have asked. I can state categorically that Paddy Ashdown has never discussed Cabinet seats with Tony Blair or anyone else. Your editorial also suggested that Paddy Ashdown and Menzies Campbell would have to join the Labour Party if they were to accept any Cabinet positions. This suggestion is as bizarre as it is ridiculous.

The Liberal Democrats are an independent party, with clear, distinctive policies, and we will be fighting every seat in the country to win. What is more, it is now crystal clear that whether you want comprehensive modernisation of our political system, principled protection of your civil liberties, or significant new investment in education and health, only the

Liberal Democrats will now make the difference after 18 years of Tory government.  
NICK SOUTH  
Head of Press and Policy  
Paddy Ashdown's Office  
House of Commons  
London SW1

### We don't need a Halifax Bank

Sir: In common with many households, we received some hefty literature giving details about the proposed conversion of the Halifax Building Society into a bank. I say "we" although it was solely addressed to my husband, even though we have always had joint accounts. The Halifax presumably does not consider women fiscally competent.

I did attempt to read this document, which seems more concerned about share allocation than the arguments for conversion. I searched in vain for a section putting a contrary view. There was none, yet there are compelling arguments against conversion. To keep shareholders sweet the cost of borrowing will go up and the rates of return on savings will go down.

Building societies were established to enable people to buy their own homes – not for people to make a financial killing. There is not exactly a shortage of banks in most high streets (although rural areas might appreciate the odd one).  
GILLIAN BERG  
Luton, Bedfordshire

### BBC tuned in to local radio

Sir: Polly Toynbee ("Local radio? Why not news from your own street", 15 January) is quite right about there being space on the dial for intelligent, locally based speech radio. We think so too. That is why the BBC's local radio stations have increasingly developed a unique role across the country – providing the community with local news, information and debate, and performing an important role as a platform for local democracy.

When major stories break in London, listeners know they will find in-depth coverage on BBC GLR. This "low-rating" service attracts more than 400,000 regular listeners.

Ms Toynbee is right, too, about the difficulties that regional television news services have in being genuinely local – a universal problem, not one unique to London. That's why, recognising the audience's appetite for greater localness, the BBC has committed itself to expand its broadcasting presence into more communities across the land, introducing new digital technology, broadcasting live reports from new fast-response vehicles, and strengthening the local content of our programmes.

Yet although it encompasses a large part of the South-east, BBC Newsroom South East is enormously popular within the Greater London area, currently enjoying a record 43 per cent share – more than 1.5 million nightly

viewers – its highest for more than two years.  
NIGEL CHAPMAN  
Controller, English Regions, BBC  
Birmingham

### Dentist still NHS

Sir: Your report "NHS dentist earns £604,000" (15 January) quotes Gordon Prentice MP: "The town where I live [Barnoldswick] doesn't have a single NHS dentist."

Mr Prentice seems to have forgotten that NHS dentistry is still available at this surgery here in Barnoldswick. We have more than 5,000 active NHS-registered patients and despite the antics of politicians – reduced registration period from two years to 15 months and reduction in items of treatment available – we will continue to strive to provide a quality NHS dental service.

EDWARD LOWERY  
PAUL HADFIELD  
Barnoldswick, Lancashire

### Bum note

Sir: Jilly Cooper and Paul Barnett (report, 16 January; letter, 18 January) have both got it wrong. *Glockenspiel* is a German word and years ago, at a party in Austria, when I said I didn't know much German, I was asked to try to say something in that language.

Inventing rapidly, I said: "Meine Grassmutter hat ein grosses Glockenspiel" ... whereupon the assembled company fell about laughing. It was explained to me that in some areas of Austria, "Glockenspiel" is dialect for "bum".  
LEN CLARKE  
Uxbridge, Middlesex

### Soccer terraces can now be safe

Sir: Your leading article of 21 January prompts me to put the case for safe terracing at some soccer grounds.

When Lord Justice Taylor condemned standing terrace areas and introduced all-seated stadiums he was right. As the then chairman of the All-Party Football Committee, I led a deputation to him to stress this. However, at that time, British engineers at NNC had not developed a revolutionary crowd monitoring system which electronically measures pressure on terrace barriers during a game.

In 1993 I was informed of this development, and went to see it. In February 1994, I took the Sports Minister, Iain Sprouat, and he too was impressed. However, we both recognised that the time for Premier League clubs to consider this scheme had passed, and it went on to a back burner.

Since that time the pressure to reopen the debate has come from football supporters. Many complain about the lack of atmosphere at some of our finest stadiums, the reduced capacity and high prices for tickets.

The Labour Party's proposed Task Force for football will give supporters a voice at the very top of the football hierarchy. Issues such as this deserve to be considered.

Terracing will only be considered once the safety question is proved. No responsible government would preside over a return to the kind of terraced accommodation that cost so many lives at Hillsborough.  
TOM PENDRY MP  
(Stalybridge and Hyde, Lab)  
Shadow Minister for Sport  
House of Commons  
London SW1

### 'Superwoman' is not that special

Sir: Nicola Horlick is dubbed "superwoman" for her ability to combine her "hectic" family life with a demanding job in the City (report, 20 January).

Mrs Horlick works from choice, not necessity, and earns enough to afford two large homes, full-time child care and sufficient domestic help to enable her, for example, to fly off to Frankfurt at a moment's notice.

The real superwomen are those who have to work in order to make ends meet, often in jobs they do not enjoy, while at the same time struggling to bring their children up in unsuitable accommodation.

Adequate child care for these superwomen is not affordable; school holidays and childhood illnesses are major crises for them; and their family life, hectic or no, does not include high-earning investment banking husbands.  
ANGELA CRUM EWING  
Reading, Berkshire

### Elfin expletive

Sir: Though I have no wish to cast doubt on CS Lewis's ability to utter colourful expletives, the one reported by Boyd Tonkin ("Enduring spell of a trilogy that leaves the critics cold", 20 January) is, in fact, attributed to Hugo Dyson, another member of the Inklings. Lewis is unlikely to have uttered about elves, as *The Lord of the Rings* would never have been completed without his constant encouragement.  
COLIN DURIETZ  
Leicester

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E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

# portrait

# Made in Streatham, made it in Paris



John Galliano (left), plumber's son, born in Gibraltar, and raised in dreary south London, is truly one of us.

He is the darling of the French, but as English as an illegal rave

by Peter Popham

John Galliano's triumph this week, in his first *haute couture* presentation for Dior, is an opportunity for that most delicious of journalistic enquiries: why on earth are we so wonderful?

John Galliano, "son of a Streatham plumber" in the usual characterisation, is, after all, utterly one of us: the foreign-sounding name and the fact that he was born in Gibraltar, as well as the dreary south London provenance of his upbringing, actually render him more typically of this place and age than if he had English genes stretching back to the 'Domesday Book' and was raised in Tunbridge Wells.

Nor is he English in some apologetic, trans-Channel, Julian Barnes manner, more French than the French themselves and palpitating at the prospect of winning the Goncourt or translation to the Académie or some such apotheosis. Galliano is as English as Camden High Street, as English as an illegal rave, as English as a capital city shorn of its own government these 13 years past.

His strengths sprout from the weaknesses and wilderness of where he comes from; or, more accurately, from a com-

bination of weaknesses and strengths that is peculiarly and indubitably English. The strength: a brilliant art school education, whether at St Martin's (Galliano's college) or Goldsmiths' or the Royal College; the weakness: a fashion business that has never amounted to a hill of beans compared to its competitors abroad, that has never been able to put that carefully nurtured talent to use.

It is the weakness of a nation which, proverbially, has lost an empire and failed to find a role but, in that sad process, has experienced an implosion of races and languages and cultures. And while it has never done anything dramatic like embrace these huddled masses, let alone provide them with the wherewithal of a decent education, it has, passively, tolerated them. It has manifested that strength. It has allowed them to take their surly and benighted place alongside our own benighted native proletariat, allowed them to form a sort of multicultural mulch out of which a wonderful exotic bloom such as Galliano can sprout.

So let's be frank: as an opportunity for national preening, Galliano's latest triumph is way up there with Brenda



Galliano's designs are the biggest thing to hit the world of French couture since Dior's New Look (above left) in 1947



Blethyn at the Golden Globes and London on the cover of *Newsweek* as the trendiest town in the planet, not to mention Bruce and Demi mulling over a move to Berkshire. But more so than those stories, Galliano's gives us pause to think a little harder about the national face that stares back at us from the mirror, warts and all.

John Galliano's is a deceptive personality because his extreme visual flamboyance – with his pistachio saris and bleached dreadlocks and brocade waistcoats and biker's leathers, he often upstages his own models and collections – masks genuine shyness. Likewise, his notoriously wild, party-loving lifestyle coexists with an extraordinary dedication to his craft, without which he could not have survived five minutes in the snobbish hell-hole of a Parisian couturier.

In a *South Bank Show* documentary about him, he compared what he does to his father's trade as a plumber, working out of sight on the hidden systems that underpin what appears on the surface. It seems a bizarre, perhaps sentimental analogy, yet when one sees Galliano entering the *atelier* (soft fabrics workroom) of Givenchy's headquarters in Paris, his eyes ablaze with anticipation, it rings true.

His rise to fame began in 1984 with his degree show at St Martin's; one observer remembers the "mad, hobo-ish woman clothes, a woman with clogs on with a tree coming out of her hair..." It was the first resounding yodel of a voice that has been distinctive and unmistakable ever since, and Joan Burstein of Browns, the fashion business in South Molton Street, immediately took the wild, tiny, frail-looking, hirsute figure under her wing and nurtured his development. She did so to such good effect that in 1987 he was named British Designer of the Year, the first of three occasions on which he has been given the award (1996 was the most recent).

But as many other designers discovered before him, London may be a brilliant crucible for young talent, but it's also a miserably inadequate marketplace for what that talent produces. London fashion week may continue to snap bravely at the heels of Paris, Milan and New York, but the industry it repre-

sents remains a fraction of the size of its rivals. So in 1992, like many others before and since, Galliano headed for the bright lights of Paris.

His first three years were hard going: he arrived in town practically penniless, slept on friends' floors and had to beg or borrow everything he needed to get started, including the services of his models (but they all loved him, so that was okay). Critical acclaim continued to surround his work, but more than once he came close to financial disaster.

Then in autumn 1995 came the big, unprecedented break. It was announced from the company's elegant headquarters in the Avenue George V that Hubert de Givenchy,

founder and chief designer of the eponymous *haute couture*, was retiring from the house he had founded in 1952. Givenchy was now owned by the conglomerate LVMH (standing for Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy) and the urbane, formal, precise founder, always immaculately besuited, was being replaced by a figure as drastically different as one could imagine. Galliano, the English wild man.

The caniness of this eccentric-seeming choice became apparent one year ago, in January 1996, when Galliano

showed his first collection for the house, to great acclaim. Although no Englishman had ever headed an *haute couture* before, this strange, anachronistic pinnacle of the fashion business is one for which a British fashion training is in fact, it transpires, a pretty good preparation.

Houses like Givenchy and Dior have a worldwide clientele of no more than 1,000 invariably wealthy women, who are willing to spend up to £20,000 on a single outfit; the nightie-like creation the Princess of

Wales wore to New York in December, for example, designed by Galliano, is said to have cost £15,000.

Despite the price tags on the clothes, so vast are the resources of skill and fabrics and time poured into each dress that no *haute couture* makes a profit from the core business: it is merely the most elaborate and gorgeous way of hyping the commercial products bearing the house's name: the lipsticks and scent and hair grips and the rest, by which it makes its money.

*Haute couture* therefore has to answer two somewhat contradictory imperatives: for the 1,000 wealthiest women, the clothes must be beautifully made, intensely alluring and (within certain rigidly prescribed contexts) wearable. For the rest of the world, meanwhile, for the mere onlookers (people like the cash-strapped Duchess of York, for example, gawping along with the rest in Paris this week), they must be

so stunning and brilliant and remarkable that, despite their irrelevance to one's own life and style, they are hypnotically interesting. They must be at the same time both an act of homage to wealth and taste, and a fireworks display.

What the French spotted in Galliano was that he was capable of homage as well as fireworks. His work, like most of the best new London work of the past 15 years, whether in fine art or architecture or fashion, as well as being a gut response to the present is intensely involved with the past. Its inspiration is flea markets and the Victoria and Albert Museum and dusty books as much as in the work of contemporaries. So when Galliano buried himself in the Givenchy archive – and latterly, since his promotion last October within LVMH to head Dior, in Dior's too – it was not out of inadequacy or nerves; it was doing one of the things he loves best: immersing himself in a fantastic conversation with the past.

For Galliano, all times and all places coincide in the here and now: the France of the *belle époque*, opium era China, pre-modern Japan, the Africa of the Masai tribesmen, all permed and frothed together in intensely romantic confections. But underpinning it and sometimes undermining it, leading it at times a lethal edge of irony, at other times merely a wiff of reality, is the grunge and grime of the streets of Streatham, where the whole thing started.

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## Locked up in a Cabinet for years – it's criminal

A disturbing report has been published which seems to demonstrate that no useful purpose is served by locking people up in a small space for years on end and expecting their behaviour to be improved by it.

The report is based on the study of the case of a Mr Michael Howard, who has spent the past five to 10 years inside a small Cabinet in central London. When he was put inside he was an obscure lawyer who seemed normal and harmed nobody except those with whom he came in regular contact. Now he is not only a potential danger to most people in the country, but has become a persistent court offender, is subject to dangerous hallucinations and has developed strange behavioural patterns.

"It would be simplistic to argue that all this has been brought on simply by being inside this Cabinet," says the report. "However, it would probably also be completely accurate."

The main delusion from which Howard seems to suffer is a belief that locking people up is fun. He does not articulate it quite like this.

**Miles Kington**

people in society are young single mothers. Therefore Mr Howard takes a lot of young mothers away from their children and locks them up to teach them to pay fines.

"A sane person would not view this as a logical policy from any angle," says the report. "It may be that he actually derives some strange sort of pleasure from locking people up but this was outside our remit. What is undeniable is that being confined to a Cabinet has caused a significant deterioration in the behaviour

of the subject, a change of which he has no awareness."

Part of the reason for his unwitting change seems to be that when you are confined to a Cabinet like Mr Howard you are surrounded by members of a peer group who suffer from the same deficiencies.

"It is not easy to generalise," says the report. But then it goes on to say, "Sorry, that's wrong. It IS easy to generalise, and one thing we can say is that almost everyone in such a Cabinet is subject to driving ambition, ruthless opportunism, dishonesty in spreading rumours about colleagues or leaking documents, an inability to distinguish the truth and an increasing reluctance to admit the truth to the public. It is sometimes said that the best way to promote crime is to lock up criminals in the same place together, for as long as possible, and the same is certainly true of politicians."

Mr Howard's behaviour has certainly not improved during his sojourn in the Cabinet. Before he went in, he had never been in trouble with the law. However, the longer he has stayed in this Cabinet, the more he has been in trouble with courts who have repeatedly condemned him for law-breaking. He has shown no remorse, no awareness of wrongdoing – indeed, he has tended to brag about it as if it makes him appear more macho. He has gone in front of large crowds and gloried in it. He has recently even acquired the delusion that he might be the next leader of the Tory party. He suffers, in brief, from that rare disorder: an excess of self-esteem.

"Power, fame and media exposure are powerful drugs," says the report. "They circulate freely in this Cabinet, despite denials. They cause unusual behaviour patterns. We do not blame Mr Howard for his present condition. This is no time to apportion blame. All we ask is that Mr Howard be taken out of the Cabinet where he has been for far too long and returned to the community. It may still not be too late for him to be useful to society."

If you wish to know more about this distressing case, please write (c/o me) to the Penal League for Howard Reform.

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## Leopards that will spring out on Labour

Peter Lilley lay like a leopard in the long grass, choosing his moment to spring upon Harriet Harman. He waited until Gordon Brown made his punishing tax and spending promises on Monday and then he pounced. It was a rapid and deadly stratagem, an ambush other Labour shadow ministers can expect as a result of Brown's impossibly commitment that Labour would spend no more on each department than the Government has budgeted for over the next two years: the Government itself would never have managed to stay within those limits.

This is what Lilley has done: in the Budget the Chancellor announced that the Lone Parent Premium (£5.20 extra for single parents on income support) and One Parent Benefit (£6.30 for working single parents) will be axed. It was a neat ploy, signalling moral disapproval of single parents while saving £100m a year.

Harman protested that the cuts would hit the weakest but otherwise no great cry went up. The silence was eerie. Once, hundreds of thousands would have been out on the streets in protest, but times have changed: people are resigned to government callousness, or simply don't care. Single parents account for most of the huge growth in poverty. They are the most vulnerable group, so cutting their benefits is dangerous cruelty. But to cut the premium that helps them in work is plain madness, as many will sink back into unemployment. This is one of the most monstrous things this government has done – though you wouldn't think so from the lack of public indignation.

Be that as it may, this is the Tory Social Security Secretary's trap: to make these cuts he must consult his Advisory Committee, then put a Bill through Parliament. That cannot be done before June – by which time Labour could be in power. So will Harman, as her very first act, implement these cuts, or will she find £100m to plug the gap that Brown is committed to keeping at its present level?

Here is Lilley's triumphant letter:

Dear Harriet,

"This afternoon Gordon Brown pledged to stay within the public spending limits. Our spending plans depend on retaining and implementing my social security reforms. Yet you have opposed or criticised all these reforms. Can you confirm... that you will introduce in government our proposed legislation... for single parents?"

"Will new Labour carry through these Conservative policies which you have criticised? If not, what other specific programmes will you cut to keep overall spending the same? You cannot duck these questions: people will know that evasive waffle in Opposition means expensive whammies in Government."

Yours sincerely, Peter Lilley.

The increasing use of the unconditional future tense – "you will introduce in government" – may be gratifying evidence that Tory



Polly Toynbee

Peter Lilley sets a £100m trap for Harman over tax pledges

ministers have already given up the ghost, but such questions still have to be answered in every department. Harman declined to step neatly into his trap. She side-stepped, replying:

"Dear Peter,

"By using money from a windfall levy on the excess and unfair profits of the privatised utilities we will get 250,000 under-25-year-olds off benefit and into work and create opportunities for people who have been unemployed for over two years by offering a National Insurance holiday to employers who take them on... A Labour government will inherit a social security system which you and your government have made expensive for taxpayers and degrading for claimants. We will have to start work immediately on making the system fairer."

"Yours sincerely, Harriet."

So, will she or won't she introduce Tory legislation to cut single parents' benefits? "No, of course not," she says when asked. So how will she pay for the shortfall? By getting many of the 1 million single parents on benefits back to work and saving their income support. 500,000 of them have a youngest child aged five or over and they could work, at least part time, if someone gave them a push. The part-time jobs are there and Labour has promised the necessary after-school clubs from the lottery fund. Currently, single mothers just receive a letter once every three years and are not registered unemployed, and no one urges them into work.

Maybe, then, she can escape this particular trap, if Brown is satisfied with her reply. But the last budget, as it is analysed more carefully by the experts, contains all kinds of deliberate dishonesties – land-mines for incoming ministers trying to keep within its impossible limits.

Just take some of the social security estimates, for instance: the Budget reckons a new Fraud Bill will save £7bn, but few experts think so. £1bn is supposed to be saved by a new DSS computer; others strongly doubt it. Estimates for social security land sales are extraordinarily optimistic. Never before has the DSS deducted a notional sum (for an expected fall in unemployment (increases during bad employment years were never added). "Honest" Ken Clarke knows he won't be facing the music, so he has produced a budget full of holes. If, by some miracle, he finds himself back in the hot seat come May, then he will simply put up taxes to cover the shortfall. If not, then Brown has foolishly swallowed his bait by promising to abide by an unworkable budget.

If things look grim in social security, that is nothing compared to the calamity that will hit the incoming health minister. In the last 17 years, NHS real growth has averaged 2.6 per cent a year. But the limits Brown has signed up to are: this year the NHS gets only 0.9 per cent, next year 0.8 per cent, the year after 0.7 per cent. Clark must be laughing up his sleeve, for out there in the long grass are plenty more leopards awaiting their Labour shadows.

## The lush rhythms of poetry and pubs

by Ruth Padel

Alcohol is the maypole of poetry life. Poets don't take many solids, for purely (of course) economic reasons. Poets get paid peanuts, and at parties they hover round tables lapping things up like camels facing a meal-less desert. Six drinks and a pack of crisps are standard supper. You don't often see a fat poet, though Seamus Heaney's putting it on a little now.

So the Australian poet Les Murray, who won the TS Eliot Prize last week, breaks records for the unsayable, exploring the shame of fatness (a boy on the beach "holding his wet T-shirt off his breasts"), and making fat spark off against all the other cruelties he writes about.

But that's Australia. Let's say you don't see many fat British or Irish poets.

On the economic front, I once watched Carol Ann Duffy see off a large salaried journalist at a literary party. "How long," he said, jelling over her, "does it take you to write a poem?" "About five minutes," said Carol Ann, cool and instant as a small iced cappuccino. "And how much do you get for that?" "A thousand pounds," I wish...

Among the top 10 questions people ask poets, "Are you still writing poetry?" is a favourite: unbearable when you know you'll never write a poem again, exasperating when you're working on one. (Still building cathedrals, Mr Wren?) Another question, a male speciality, is a line of patronising suspicion which leans on the more obvious aspects of technique (that well-documented male weakness). From Greek ship-owners to Paul Johnson, they all ask, "Do you use rhyme?"

Not using rhyme in a poem is like starting to decorate without white paint. You don't have to slather the walls in it: you can mix it with Apache Orange, try fancy marbling, draw regency stripes or a frieze of zebras if you like, but you must have it on hand. Poets put rhyme mid-line, if not at the end. They squish it, slant it, run and cheat with it. Rather, I imagine, as those guys "use" maths – in shipping, or counting words for the *Spectator*.

Christopher Reid performed a *tour de force* of barking rhymes brilliantly last week at the Almeida Theatre, which hosts a reading of poets short-listed for the Eliot prize. This is Reid's notorious curse-poem,



Ruth Padel: 'Poets don't take many solids, for purely economic reasons' David Rose

It came into its own as art of the recession – you could have a wild cultural experience in the Troubadour for £4 and get to buy a poet a drink

barked back against two insomniacs dogs next door. ("One has vanished since, so don't believe Auden when he says 'poetry makes nothing happen'") Chris hinted at a magical affinity between rhyming and violence. We heard it at work in his poem about male caribou crashing on TV. Like "jousting with hatstands," he said. (Or the *South Bank Show*?) Good subject, the testosterone of rhyme.

It was a wonderful night at the Almeida, between the rac-

ing wind-channel of the archway and the tropical botany of the bar stuffed with glamorous agents like Pat Kavanagh, who you never saw at poetry readings before. Valerie Eliot and the Poetry Book Society created the Eliot prize. People were being turned away in glossy herds. ("Full up" But it's a poetry reading.")

Ian McDiarmid, who runs the theatre, recognises poetry as the newly fashionable about-town. Poetry came into

its own as art of the recession. You could have a wild cultural experience for £4 in the heady chiaroscuro of the Troubadour basement, and get to buy a poet a drink.

But prizes are turning poetry into a bloodsport. For 10 shortlisted poets, the Eliot prize means a Sunday evening reading, a nail-biting Monday while the judges do their bit alone, then a media party announcing the winner. Horrible, watching friends whose work you've loved and

admired for maybe years, waiting to hear who's won. Novelists face it on telly for the Booker but it shouldn't happen to a poet.

Still, if the cost of poetry's new chic is nine souls going through hell two days a year, I suppose it must be paid. As a judge, I got rung up afterwards for comments about Les Murray by an arts editor who didn't approve of prizes but wouldn't have had a story without them.

The Almeida evening only spluttered when an Australian actor from *Neighbours*, invited to read Les's work (since he comes from the same place), said he'd never heard of him, and sent up the blurb on the back of his book. "Poet of the sacred, but wise to this world: doesn't leave much out, does he?" If he'd known his job it might have been OK, but *Neighbours* doesn't give much practice in words and he read as if he'd just picked up his Albanian granny's recipe for chestnut stuffing, confirming all poets in their conviction that actors can't read poems.

Writing Poetry, an about-to-be indispensable handbook by Matthew Sweeney and John Hartley Williams (out in April), says the same. "Actors think poets can't read their own poems: poets know actors can't."

Writing Poetry warns you of poetry's belt-tightening economics and goes deep into technicalities such as rhyme (though not its testosterone), and other features of the poetry landscape. Except – Matthew, John, bless the bed we all lie on, how could you leave it out? – for alcohol. When my daughter's class discussed "Do not go gentle into that good night," a clued-up kid asked, "Wasn't Dylan Thomas an alcoholic?" "All poets are alcoholics," came the answer. Lovely daughterly bristles ("My mum's a poet and she's not...") – but her real view surfaced the following week when I was late picking her up. "I thought you'd done a reading, got drunk, and forgotten me." Not that I ever... Oh well.

The writer was a judge for the 1996 T S Eliot Prize. Her most recent poetry collection is *Fusewire* (Chatto and Windus).

Where to hear poetry, or buy a poet a drink: Poetry Book Society, 0181-870-8403; Troubadour Café poetry readings, 0171-835 2282; Piccadilly Poets, 0171-287-2875.

## The personal is the historical

Michael Ignatieff has pulled our century apart. And found that it's about him. By Paul Valley

"Technology was supposed to take my father's suffering from him. In the event it took him from us, to die alone in an intensive care unit."

Michael Ignatieff has tried hard to keep himself out of his history of the 20th century. But he has lived in it. So its history is his history. Even so, his personal life extrudes just once – and only for the two sentences quoted above – in the new series of Radio 4's award-winning review of the past 10 decades, *20/20*, which Ignatieff takes over from John Tusa at its halfway point tonight.

Intellectuals tend to shy away from the personal; they are happier with ideas than with people. And the Canadian historian – best known for his smoothly cerebral performances on BBC's former arts flagship *The Late Show* – is, in an age of jangling journalistic populism, shamelessly splendidly intellectual. So is his new series. And then, in its midst, come these two odd sentences.

On the television Ignatieff comes across with a cool self-certainty which some find irritating. In the flesh he is all engaging diffidence and searching self-doubt. "I didn't realise until I began, that when you have lived through an era, the history you relate will be your own personal history. Looking back, I realised that its public events had made much more impact on me than I had supposed. So one of the sub-themes was to historicise my own experience: every single death in my family – my mother, father, aunts and uncles – five in the last 10 years – have all involved me and my immediate family in making decisions."

At the beginning of the century death was a more daily visitor. A visit to a Victorian cemetery underscores the fact that one in 10 children died in infancy and half the population

expected to die before the age of 45. "I'm beset by nostalgia and this series has to some extent cured me of it," he says. "You wouldn't want to check into an Edwardian hospital with appendicitis or with a child who had diphtheria. The improvement of medicine has brought new dilemmas – but they are dilemmas I want."

And yet at the end of the 20th century we experience the phenomenon of death in the family with more moral anguish. "Was I right to turn off my aunt's ventilator?" he asks. "I think I was, but the 20th century has brought freedoms which bring bitter and difficult moments."

Medicine is just one of the subjects he tackles. *20/20* takes a thematic approach rather than a chronological one. In addition to suffering he looks, over the next five weeks, at Creating, Spending, Growing and Constructing. But from all the themes one big question emerges: have we made moral as well as technological progress? Are morality and technology, he asks, on a collision course?

The question is not restricted to the area of medical ethics. It is there in politics, economics, ecology and even architecture. The dreams of the great French architect Le Corbusier ended in the unnatural gravity-defying tower blocks of the Fifties and Sixties. The cathedrals of the early decades were the buildings of Chrysler, Hitler, Stalin which embodied the certainty that the world can be known and mastered. The Sixties brought the white heat of technology.

"That was the great false promise of modernity – that we can control our lives," says Ignatieff. "But the technology that was supposed to make us safe and secure has instead created a world which is running out of control. The myth of the all-conquering scientist led us to expect one triumph



Ignatieff: 'Progress of sorts'

after another. The idea of medical progress encouraged the idea of a utopia in which suffering would be abolished and death, if not abolished, would at least be postponed indefinitely. "He is back to medicine again. "And yet the real enemy is disease. So why are we treating death? When is enough enough?"

Tentatively he tells the story of his mother's death. Of how, seconds after she died, a young doctor entered the room and said: "I think she needs more morphine." "My brother said: 'I don't think she needs anything now, doctor.' I resented the fact that he intruded at that moment. There was some sense in which my mother's death had been expropriated."

Perhaps that was inevitable in a century when death and birth have moved from the home to the hospital. But there is a sense also that medical

advances have shifted us from a culture of endurance to a culture of complaint and still we can't find a meaning in suffering. So two-thirds of the health budget in a country like Canada goes on the terminally ill. The developed world has decided it needs to die with dignity while the Third World does not even have the wherewithal to live, with dignity or without.

One of the reasons many are disappointed in the 20th century is that we still have a 19th-century Darwinian notion of progress, as the historian Christopher Cook has said. Yet the rebellion of hippie culture, and later environmentalism, showed that there was a powerful counter-current to the consumerism that came to rescue capitalism.

"People have invested a tremendous amount of meaning in their belongings – a car is a woman, a car is freedom, and so on," says Ignatieff. "But part of them knows that in the end it's just a car." Even in a world of McDonald's values nobody believes that consumption provides the answer to the ultimate questions.

That said, the traditional forum for tackling such questions – orthodox religion – is crumbling too. Ignatieff is an agnostic and not disposed to be nostalgic about religion, but it did provide a space and a language in which people could reach to the transcendent once a week. "One of the odd things about the 20th century is how those considerations have been whisked out of public life."

Like death, religion has been privatised. There is no common public language. "You feel alone, whereas in religious cultures you have a congregation and the whole proscenium arch of ritual and meaning in which life and death was framed." So we are witnessing a gradual secularisation? "There has been an ebbing of public

religious doctrine. But it's the waning of religious authority, not belief."

He detects a new, solitary, religious sensibility. "Scratch most individuals and you find some sense of the metaphysical." It may be pick-and-mix with a bit of Buddhism, a bit of Christianity and a bit of superstition but it is their own. If it is unarticulated or unformulated it is deeply believed. The religious impulse has gone into ethics, into the environment, into popular science, with all the interest in the Big Bang, and the international outrage over genocide which is a new thing in the 20th century. The ghost of religion has survived.

In 1915 the Turks got away with slaughtering hundreds of thousands of Armenians; in 1994 when the Hutus did the same to the Tutsis the world intervened – inadequately and too late – but it intervened. That is moral progress of sorts.

So we are back to progress. One of the great surprises for Ignatieff in making the series was to discover how much he needed a sense of progress. Without it, as some wag once put it, history is just one damned thing after another. "And then one begins to think," says Ignatieff, "that one's life is just one damned thing after another. I find I need the idea of progress more than I had supposed."

And if, after the grandiose project of modernism, the people who survive into the next millennium are suspicious of great schemes and certainties, or more sceptical, or just more conscious of environmental or other considerations, that may be no bad thing. "At the end of the century we're in a very unheroic, unPromethean, unromantic culture. But it may mean it's a better place to live. Perhaps this is not such a bad time to be alive."

Michael Ignatieff presents *20/20* on Radio 4 tonight at 7.45pm.

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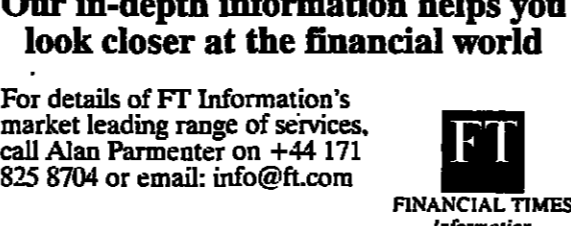


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Life General International Acc	6388	6412	Life Managed	3448	3530



8945	9088	316	(Action Unit)	12824	13563	282	NPI UK Acc	925
4245	4536	48178	Corporate Bond	2824	2833	672	NPI UK Dist	450
			Danland	4840	4830	468	NPI UK Estm Inc Acc	925

30705	1835.05	048	Equity Income	2004	7289	488	MR LK S&P 500 Ind	307
30706	1832.30	048	Equity Income	2003	5713	54	MR LK S&P 500 Ind	308
30707	1825.23	048	Equity Income	1992	545	50	MR LK S&P 500 Ind	309
17820	1852.5	203	European & General	6477	6943	699	MR W Europe Div	78
	1862.10		(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	79
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	80
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	81
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	82
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	83
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	84
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	85
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	86
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	87
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	88
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	89
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	90
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	91
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	92
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	93
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	94
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	95
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	96
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	97
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	98
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	99
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			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	102
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			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	104
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			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	106
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	107
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	108
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	109
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	110
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	111
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	112
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	113
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	114
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	115
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	116
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	117
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	118
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	119
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	120
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	121
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	122
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928	699	MR W Europe Div	123
			(Popm) Incus	6948	6928</			

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794	8327	04	Local City Growth	2695	3441	19	First Gen	36
795	8328	04	UK Growth	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
796	8329	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
797	8330	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
798	8331	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
799	8332	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
800	8333	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
801	8334	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
802	8335	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
803	8336	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
804	8337	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
805	8338	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
806	8339	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
807	8340	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
808	8341	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
809	8342	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
810	8343	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
811	8344	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
812	8345	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
813	8346	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
814	8347	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
815	8348	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
816	8349	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
817	8350	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
818	8351	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
819	8352	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
820	8353	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
821	8354	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
822	8355	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
823	8356	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
824	8357	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
825	8358	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
826	8359	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
827	8360	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
828	8361	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
829	8362	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
830	8363	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
831	8364	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
832	8365	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
833	8366	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
834	8367	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
835	8368	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
836	8369	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
837	8370	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
838	8371	04	Alcohol	2695	3441	19	Northwest Bank And Trust Inc	36
839	8372	04	Alcohol					

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10,229,000	Japan	52.80	53.60	40.19
10,229,000	American	100.24	101.19	47.66

Statistical data.

Information

com

UNIT TRUST GUIDE

d ex dividend

e exit charge applies

when units are sold

buy formerly 'offer'

sell formerly 'bid'

x Non SIB recognised funds

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# business & city

Business news desk: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098  
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

## Royal Bank spearheads Internet revolution

Jill Treanor  
Banking Correspondent

Royal Bank of Scotland will spearhead a revolution in banking in the spring with the launch of the first fully-fledged Internet service. The move by RBS steals a march on its high street rivals, most of which are only experimenting with a direct-linked home banking service.

TSB has offered home banking since last year, and Barclays is working towards the launch of a similar service. Access to both services, however, is restricted and will not be available on the Internet.

as printing out bank details, displaying balances and orders and direct debits and paying bills to more than 750 companies.

Customers will be able to transfer money between accounts held at RBS, and transfer financial data to accounting packages such as Microsoft Money 97 and spreadsheets.

Customers will need a personal computer with Microsoft Windows technology and access to the Internet to use the system. RBS will charge £1.50 a month to bank via the Internet, after a free trial period of six months.

This surprised some analysts, such as Claus Nehmzow, principal at Booz Allen & Hamilton, a consultancy firm, who points out that the benefit for banks of offering services on the Internet is that it is cheap.

Mr Nehmzow has calculated that Internet and other virtual

banking channels have a significantly lower cost structure than traditional methods, so that, for instance, banks on the Internet can operate at an expense ratio of 15 to 20 per cent compared with 60 per cent for the average bank.

RBS defended its decision to charge for the system. "We put a lot of investment into it and we hope we're providing a system that customers want," said Bill Bourgoud, head of electronic services with RBS's retail banking services.

"It is a modest charge. We're absolutely committed to maintaining a competitive package." He declined to reveal the amount of investment put into the system but such services are generally estimated to cost between £1m and £2m to set up.

According to Booz Allen & Hamilton, the operating cost basis is also low in terms of maintaining the Internet sites. RBS said it had overcome one of the main barriers to providing Internet banking - security for users. Mr Bourgoud

said this had been of paramount importance to RBS and that its security system was "extremely robust" and had been checked by experts who worked for the Ministry of Defence.

All customer data is scrambled to ensure privacy and cannot be added, deleted, replayed or tampered with. The central computer server is also firewalled from inside and out, providing a protective barrier between the internal network and the Internet.

Customers will need passwords to use the system and their PCs will need to be registered. RBS said it was so confident about security that if customers had taken care to keep their security details secret, they would not be liable for any transactions on their accounts which they had not authorised.

Around 11 per cent of adults in the UK use the Internet but this proportion is expected to es-

calate to such an extent that Mr Nehmzow estimated that 80 per cent of European banks would provide a full banking service over the Internet within three years.

He said that 15 per cent of American customers would conduct at least some of the banking activities via the Internet by 2000. While Europeans were slower to catch on, Mr Nehmzow said banks on this side of the Atlantic believed that 10 to 20 per cent was not an unrealistic target for this period.

The first users were more likely to be young because they had access to the Internet. Mr Nehmzow said.

Such forecasts for the use of the Internet are further evidence of the radical change under way in banking in Britain and provide further proof that the days of visiting a bank manager in a branch are over.

Comment, page 19

## Tesco to expand shopping trial in cyberspace

Tesco is to extend its Internet home shopping trial to five new areas following an encouraging performance at its pilot scheme in Osterley, west London, writes Nigel Cope. New services will start in Hammersmith and Leeds next month. Lea Valley in north-west London and Romford, Essex, will follow after Easter. A trial in Sutton, Surrey, will start in the spring.

Tim Mason, Tesco's marketing director says: "We are excited about the results in Osterley. We want to find out if that is something special to that area or if it can be replicated elsewhere."

Tesco claims that the Osterley trial has

attracted "hundreds" of devotees with the average purchase double that achieved in a regular store.

Half of the customers have been ordering via phone or fax. The remainder have been ordering through the Internet option, a higher proportion than expected.

"We're really pleased with the response from customers," Tesco said. "People are ordering across the product range not just the staple products, but fresh meat, fruit and vegetables too."

Tesco launched its Internet shopping trial last October, offering the service to holders of its Clubcard loyalty scheme.

Customers can choose from 20,000 product lines, the same as in a normal store. They pay a £5 fee for delivery.

Tesco is the most advanced of the big supermarkets in home shopping. Sainsbury's is also conducting trials and has links with a home delivery company in south London called Fanagan's. Tesco's Tim Mason said the aim was to help customers to shop "without the physical effort of shopping".

Users of the Tesco service say it can take up to two hours to place the first order as the system is unfamiliar. After that the process can take only 15 minutes.

## Boeing calls halt on \$7bn super-jumbo project

Michael Harrison

Boeing dropped a bombshell on the aviation industry yesterday by shelving plans to build a stretched version of its 747 jumbo jet, claiming that the market was too small to justify the \$7bn (£4.2bn) cost of the programme.

The announcement took observers by surprise and, for the time being at least, leaves Airbus Industrie as the only jet manufacturer preparing to launch a super-jumbo.

The proposed 747-500X and 600X family of jets would have been capable of carrying 550 passengers - 140 more than the biggest 747 currently flying - and would have entered service in 2001. The aircraft would

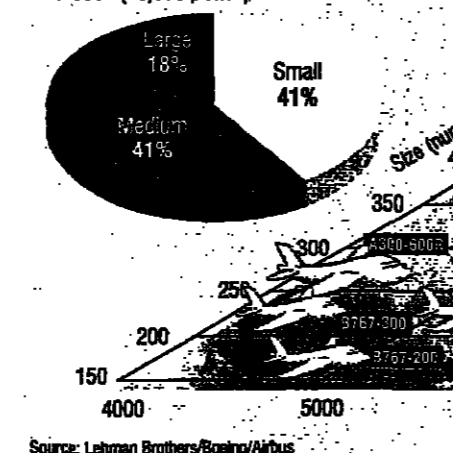
have cost \$210m. The Airbus A3XX family has a payload of 555-650 seats and would be priced at \$198m.

Despite twice delaying the launch of the programme, Boeing had been expected to give the go-ahead later this year. However, Ron Woodward, president of the Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, said yesterday: "Sufficient market demand has not yet developed to justify committing the significant investment required to develop larger versions of the 747."

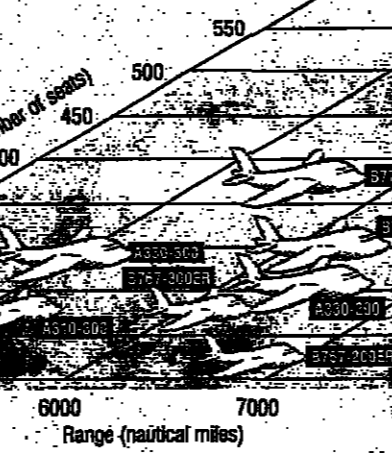
Boeing estimates the market for aircraft with more than 500 seats at 470 whereas Airbus puts demand at just under 1,400. Airbus says the A3XX will cost \$8bn to build but Bo-

## The battle for supremacy as manufacturers jockey for share of \$1,000bn market

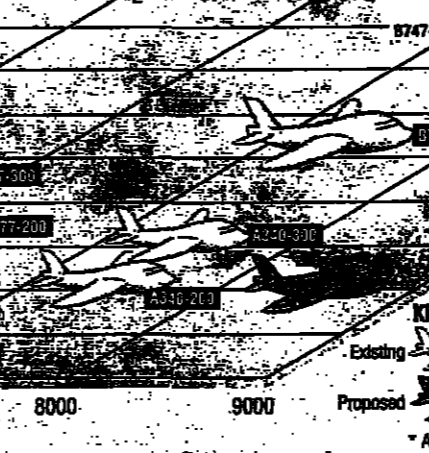
Commercial jet market forecast deliveries 1996 to 2015  
\$1,130bn (16,000 planes)



Wide body planes  
Size and range



Forecast of Super Jumbo demand 1996 to 2015



ing claims the cost will be nearer \$20bn because it is an all-new aircraft.

Mr Woodward said that Boeing had decided instead to concentrate on developing new versions of its twin-engine wide-bodied family of aircraft the 767 and the 777. All but a small number of the 1,000 or so engineers that had been working on the 747-600X programme are being redeployed to other areas of the company.

Boeing has not, however, jettisoned the super-jumbo altogether, saying it would continue to study airplanes capable

of carrying more passengers than today's 747.

"This remains one of the priorities of our product-development efforts," Mr Woodward said. "When the market develops for such an aircraft, we will be ready."

An Airbus spokesman said: "The feedback we have been getting from the market is that airlines are interested in a new technology, state-of-the-art aeroplane. The A3XX can offer that, whereas the stretched 747 does not necessarily fit the bill."

The 747-600X would have

been based on an airframe that dates back to the 1960s in design.

In recent months, Boeing had been under increasing pressure from potential airline customers to upgrade the proposed aircraft and put fly-by-wire technology into its cockpit. This had forced it to raise its cost projections from \$5bn to \$7bn.

At the same time Boeing was finding it difficult to pin down launch customers for the aircraft. Although it had letters of intent from Thai Airways and Malaysian Airlines to buy about

20 jets, the prize it was looking for was a launch order from Singapore Airlines or, better still, British Airways.

BA, however, had made it clear that it had other priorities to deal with than adding a super-jumbo to its fleet. BA is concentrating instead on gaining approval for the transatlantic tie-up with American Airlines and achieving its goal of £1bn in cost savings.

Despite yesterday's announcement from Boeing, aviation observers doubt that it has given up on the super-jumbo market. Indeed, there was

some speculation that it may have made the announcement to sow doubts in the minds of airline customers about the need for the Airbus A3XX.

The two manufacturers have been playing a cat and mouse game over whether and when they will launch their rival programmes for the last four years. At one stage the four Airbus partners - British Aerospace, Aerospatiale of France, Daimler Benz of Germany and Spain's Casa - conducted joint studies with Boeing.

Boeing has a monopoly in the jumbo market with orders

for the latest version, the 747-400, standing at 482. About a third of its profits are reckoned to come from this one aircraft.

The 747-500X would have a payload of 450 passengers and a range of more than 8,500 miles. The 747-600X would have slightly more range but one-third more payload.

On current planning, the A3XX is due to enter service in 2003. Airbus is due to gain authorisation to begin offering the aircraft to customers late next year and formally launch the programme in 1999.

Comment, page 19

## Pound drives home Clarke's dilemma

Diane Coyle and Nic Cunniff

Export orders have started to suffer because of the strength of the pound, according to a survey published by the Confederation of British Industry yesterday. But separate figures showing strong mortgage demand highlighted the Chancellor's dilemma over interest rates.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, signalled earlier this week that he had advised higher borrowing costs to tame consumer demand despite the recent rise in the pound. Mortgage figures from the Building Societies Association, showing that new lending grew nearly 50 per cent last year, underlined the Bank's concerns yesterday.

However, the CBI said the decision was "finely balanced". Ross Buckland, chief executive of foods group Unigate and a member of the CBI's economic affairs committee, said: "We say, looking at all the elements, that no interest rate rise is justified at present."

Paul Mortimer-Lee, chief

economist at investment bank Paribas, said: "It is a choice between two evils. Either interest rates are going to be too low or the exchange rate is going to be too high."

The CBI's quarterly survey of manufacturers showed that export orders had levelled off for the first time since October 1993. Manufacturers' optimism about exports had also fallen.

The survey showed output had grown steadily over the past four months, although its rate of growth had slowed. General business optimism was steady, and there was a sharp rise in the balance of companies expecting to increase rather than reduce their prices. Domestic demand for consumer goods in particular was still improving.

Fresh evidence of the housing market recovery came from the Building Societies Association. It said net lending in 1996 reached £13.24bn, up 48 per cent on the previous year.

In the final quarter of last year, societies' net advances, at almost £4bn, were 95 per cent up on the fourth quarter of 1995. Although net advances dipped

slightly to £1.2bn in December, they were up 50 per cent on the same month last year.

The British Bankers' Association said mortgage lending rose by £552m, compared to £606m in November and a six-monthly average of £571m.

But Dharshini David, UK economist at HSBC Markets, said seasonally-adjusted net new commitments, the amount of future lending pledged by building societies, was expected to reach 48,000 in December, the lowest in five months.

"The figures reveal tentative signs of a weakening of mortgage demand," she said. "This could reflect the disappearance of many fixed-rate mortgage packages following the base rate rise on 30 October."

Separate figures showing an unexpected drop of £3.5m in total bank lending in December muddied the picture. Even though a large part of the fall was due to end-year transactions in the gilts, underlying loans were weak. The growth rate of M4, the broad money measure, fell to 9.6 from 10.8 per cent in November.

## Greenspan applauds 'breathtaking' climb



Good news: Alan Greenspan was upbeat about the US economy although he warned about inflationary pressures

David Osborne  
New York

Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, yesterday cheered US financial markets with a broadly upbeat assessment of the American economy even as he raised a warning flag about his continuing sense of job insecurity in the US workplace that was keeping wage pressures down.

He added high US imports, increased deregulation, the declining influence of the unions and a sharp slowdown in the rise of healthcare costs.

There was a clear warning in his testimony, however, that wages could begin to succumb to upward pressures at any time, which could feed into higher inflation. "The recent pick-up in some measures of wages suggests that the transition may be already running its course," Mr Greenspan warned.

The jobless rate in the US is at a seven-year low of only 5.3 per cent.

Mr Greenspan also reminded listeners that in setting monetary policy, the Fed always had to look roughly six months into the future. This was in part because there was always a time lag of about the same period before any interest rate adjustment began to bite.

considerable vigour, with few signs of imbalances and inflationary tensions that have disrupted past expansions". He reported that the economy grew about 3 per cent last year.

The Chairman attributed the absence of inflationary pressure and low wage growth on several factors, in particular a continuing sense of job insecurity in the US workplace that was keeping wage pressures down. He added high US imports, increased deregulation, the declining influence of the unions and a sharp slowdown in the rise of healthcare costs.

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That was taken by many analysts as a clear signal of the Fed's readiness to tighten monetary conditions at the first real sign of an uptick in wages and inflation. "Greenspan is clearly preparing the market for a possible tightening move. He leaves no question about that," said David Jones, an analyst with Aubrey Lansdon.

The next meeting of the Fed's Open Market Committee, which sets interest rates, is scheduled for 3-4 February, by which time more data will be available to indicate whether new inflationary dangers are indeed gathering.

Addressing the extraordinary ebullience of Wall Street, Mr Greenspan remarked that the "stock market continued to climb at a breathtaking rate". He was forced on to the defensive about his "irrational exuberance" quip of last December by some aggressive questioning from senators.

"It was not a shot from the hip," Mr Greenspan said, explaining that he had been trying to lay out all the various factors that had to be taken into account by the Fed in determining monetary policy.

"We thought long and in detail that any such statement could very well have immediate market effects."

STOCK MARKETS									
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Yield (%)	Index	Close	Day's change
FTSE 100	4195.50	+1.50	+0.0	4207.70	3832.30	3.72	Nikkei	15000	+100
FTSE 250	4570.10	-10.10	-0.2	4583.40	4015.30	3.41	Dow Jones	8600	+50
FTSE 350	2081.80	-0.40	-0.0	2087.70	1816.60	3.65	FTSE 100	4195.50	+1.50
FT All Share	2282.42	-4.22	-0.2	2287.88	1954.05	2.95	FTSE 250	4570.10	-10.10
New York	5688.51	+44.64	+0.7	5695.87	5032.94	1.95	FTSE 350	2081.80	-0.40
Hong Kong	13792.79	-135.45	-1.0	13868.24	10204.87	3.04	FT All Share	2282.42	-4.22
Frankfurt	2376.71	-53.97	-1.8	3030.88	2253.36	1.50	New York	5688.51	+44.64

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
UK short sterling	6.00	6.75	7.42	7.34	7.50	7.51			
UK medium gilt	5.51	5.78	6.55	5.83	6.82	6.07			
US long bond	0.44	0.41	2.42	2.96					
Germany	3.06	3.13	5.79	5.83	6.60	6.62			

CURRENCIES									
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year	30 Year
£/\$	1.6627	-0.53c	1.5140						
£/DM	1.6830	unch	1.5143						
DM/\$	2.2001	+1.24c	2.2365						
¥/\$	165.874	+10.601	160.212						
£/¥	80.0	+0.2	63.0						

## 27% Somerfield rise leaves investors cool

Maiden results from Somerfield, the supermarket group whose summer flotation was dogged by problems, were yesterday greeted with a cool response from investors and analysts, writes Nigel Cope.

Announcing a 27 per cent rise in half-year profits to £54.6m, Somerfield's chief executive, David Simons, said the group was "delivering the goods". However, analysts pointed to a weak like-for-like sales increase of just 1.7 per cent as evidence that Somerfield remained a weak player in a highly competitive sector. Several down-

graded their full-year profits forecasts to around £100m as the shares fell 5.5p to 168.5p.

Though the core Somerfield format has been trading relatively well, with same-store sales 4.3 per cent higher in the period, the old Gateway stores and Food Giant discount format are experiencing sharp sales falls of 5.5 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

Current trading is also weak with total sales up just 1.2 per cent in the first nine weeks of the second half. The maiden interim dividend was 3.4p.

Investment column, page 21

صكنا من الامم



# market report / shares

## Data Bank

**FTSE 100**  
4195.5 + 1.5

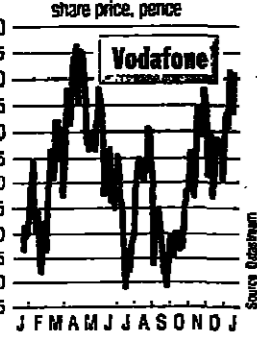
**FTSE 250**  
4570.1 - 10.1

**FTSE 350**  
2081.6 - 0.4

**SEAQ VOLUME**  
873.9m shares,  
49,018 bargains

**Gilts Index**  
94.75 - 0.28

## Share spotlight



The Storehouse retailing group, taking in such chains as BHS and Mothercare, seems unable to avoid the bearish embrace of Barclays de Zoete Wedd. The investment house's highly rated retail analysts, Charles Nichols and Tony Shire, are again advising their followers to dump the shares.

Their sell advice follows what appeared to be a reasonable festive trading statement. The analysts doubt whether in the first 40 weeks of the current year "there is more than a marginal gain in group like-for-like sales, a poor outcome by industry standards".

They have, consequently, reduced their estimate for this year's profits by £5m to £120m. Last year Storehouse produced £108.7m. For next year BZW is looking for £136m.

The group's shares, riding at 361p in May, have since been in a ragged retreat. They

touched a 248p low last month, reflecting earlier negative comment from BZW, but appeared to have gained some strength from a Christmas trading statement and were holding at 275p before the latest BZW hit cut the price to 272p.

The rest of the stock market, after spending most of the session fretting about what Alan Greenspan planned to say, produced a huge sigh of relief when the US banking chief adopted a fairly neutral stance.

Last month he said share markets were overheating. His cautionary words had little impact and he had been expected to return to the cool-down theme.

At one time Footsie was down 26.4 points. By the close it had rallied to show a modest gain, up 1.5 points at 4195.5. Higher interest rate worries, however, are never far below the surface and Bank of England Governor Eddie



## MARKET REPORT

### DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

George's latest call for an increase to ensure inflation targets are met was an inhibiting influence.

The market had enjoyed much of its recent success on the back of high-flying banks and financials. There are some fear, early signs their heady run is coming to an end which could indicate the bull market is running out of steam.

In the main the bankers more than held their own which gave a little extra momentum to the Greenspan-inspired rally.

Football clubs, for so long hitting new highs, were among the more unimpressive shares, reflecting the problems of second

division Millwall, suspended at 4p and in administration. Manchester Utd, Southampton, Sunderland and Tottenham Hotspur shivered a few coppers lower.

Sports retailers, another boom area, also suffered a relapse after the Office of Fair Trading said it was campaigning against alleged resale price maintenance in the supply of sports goods. Blacks Leisure dipped 7.5p to 382.5p and J David Sports 16.5p to 325p.

Vodafone was the best-performing blue chip. The shares rose 7.5p to 261p after the mobile telephone group produced figures showing a sharp customer increase. It said its over-

seas subscribers had topped 1 million, giving it more than 3.8 million - with 25 per cent added since the start of last year. Orange also dialled the right number, gaining 4p to 197.5p following a HSBC James Capel buy signal.

BT put on 6p to 256p on bottom fishing and Rolls-Royce continued to draw inspiration from hopes of a German deal over its Parsons turbine operation, rising 2.5p to 242p.

Racal Electronics, up 6p to 251p, enjoyed a Credit Lyonnais Laing push but Shell shrugged off a UBS downgrade, climbing 5p to 1,036.5p.

Dorling Kindersley's fall from grace continued with the market fearing more bad news. The price of the CD Rom group fell 29.5p to 375.5p, its lowest for nearly two years.

It has already warned that weak US markets and sterling's

strength were taking their toll. There are fears last month's sales were unspectacular.

Thorn's sad decline continued with a 9.5p fall to 199.5p and Somerfield, the supermarket chain, fell 5.5p to 168.5p, although figures were in line with estimates.

Life Sciences, following the £236m US takeover bid, gained 41.5p to 134p but water group Mid Kent Holdings, after the Whitehall block on the controversial French strike, sank 62.5p to 57.5p.

The 600 Group, a machine tool maker, produced the day's profit warning, falling 55p to 144.5p as a result.

Jarvis, the construction group which has moved into railway maintenance rose 6p to a 160p, a peak. Talk of bids and deals are never far from the company, up from 17.75p a year ago. Monday's big trade in Ronson (22.5p) turned out to be a bed and breakfast deal.

Littlewoods, the pools and retailing group for so long thought to be lining up a deal with Lancia Trust, has set its sights on struggling Jacques Vert. It is taking a 29.9 per cent stake and intends to develop a new mail order catalogue with the fashion group.

Littlewoods, which has agreed a £395m deal for the Freemans business, is paying £2.7m or 30p a share. Jacques Vert shares, down to 28.5p in November, jumped 21p to 53.5p.

Radio First held at 8p on Ofex. It is paying £225,000 down and £500,000 later for three radio stations at Peterborough, Northampton and Cheltenham. The seller is GWR. Other deals are on Radio First's wavelength. The company owns the growing Mellow Radio, expected to break even this year.

## Taking Stock

Stock	Price	Change	Volume	Value
Alcoholic Beverages				
Banks, Merchant				
Banks, Retail				
Breweries, Pubs & Rest				
Building/Construction				
Building Materials				
Chemicals				
Distributors				
Diversified Industries				
Electricity				
Electronics				
Engineering				
Engineering Vehicles				
Extractive Industries				
Food Manufacturers				
Gas Distribution				
Health Care				
Household Goods				
Insurance				
Internationals				
Investment Companies				
Investment Trusts				
Leisure & Hotels				
Life Assurance				
Media				
Metals				
Oil Exploration				
Oil Integrated				
Other Financial				
Pharmaceuticals				
Printing & Paper				
Property				
Retailers, Food				
Retailers, General				
Support Services				
Telecommunications				
Textiles & Apparel				
Tobacco				
Transport				
Water				
Rights Issues				
Recent Issues				

Stock	Price	Change	Volume	Value
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Breweries, Pubs & Rest				
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Chemicals				
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Electronics				
Engineering				
Engineering Vehicles				
Extractive Industries				
Food Manufacturers				
Gas Distribution				
Health Care				
Household Goods				
Insurance				
Internationals				
Investment Companies				
Investment Trusts				
Leisure & Hotels				
Life Assurance				
Media				
Metals				
Oil Exploration				
Oil Integrated				
Other Financial				
Pharmaceuticals				
Printing & Paper				
Property				
Retailers, Food				
Retailers, General				
Support Services				
Telecommunications				
Textiles & Apparel				
Tobacco				
Transport				
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Stock	Price	Change	Volume	Value
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Extractive Industries				
Food Manufacturers				
Gas Distribution				
Health Care				
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Investment Trusts				
Leisure & Hotels				
Life Assurance				
Media				
Metals				
Oil Exploration				
Oil Integrated				
Other Financial				
Pharmaceuticals				
Printing & Paper				
Property				
Retailers, Food				
Retailers, General				
Support Services				
Telecommunications				
Textiles & Apparel				
Tobacco				
Transport				
Water				
Rights Issues				
Recent Issues				

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Life Sciences succumb £236m

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business

Taking Stock

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from... deal...

# Somerfield still has problems

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

It is hardly surprising that Somerfield laid low for almost six months after what proved to be one of the most fraught new issues of recent times. David Simons and his fellow directors probably limped back to their Bristol headquarters severely bruised after their experience, if several million richer.

The cut price float was such a debacle that it made it all the more crucial that the company did not disappoint with yesterday's maiden set of results as a public company. Mr Simons even started his presentation with a slide showing the slogan "delivering the goods".

This was only partly the case. Though half-year profits of £54.6m were in line with expectations and the margin increase to 3.4 per cent was also good news, the longer term prospects still look poor.

The most worrying sign is the group's like-for-like sales performance, where sales in the six months to November were just 1.7 per cent ahead of the same period last year. With food price inflation running at just over 2 per cent, that represents a fall in real terms.

The problem is that though management tries to focus attention on the core Somerfield format, where sales were 4.3 per cent ahead, it is still being dragged back by the underperforming tail of old Gateway stores and the Food Giant discount format. Sales are falling off a cliff in both.

Dig beneath the surface and other problems emerge. Though the conversion of Gateway shops to the Somerfield format yields double digit sales gains in the short term, they soon evaporate. David Simons admitted yesterday that in some of the original Somerfield conversions sales have started to go into reverse. For a company that is hoping to drive profits through higher sales that looks extremely worrying.

To be fair to Somerfield, it is doing some of the right things. It is moving towards higher margin fresh foods and its Europartners buying consortium is helping keep costs lower.

Mr Simons is talking about home shopping trials and financial services but the fact is that rivals such as Tesco and Sainsbury are further ahead, have stronger brands and more funds. Somerfield is always going to be running to catch up.

Shareholders who were bold enough to apply for Somerfield shares last summer eventually got a very good deal at 14.5p. Though the shares dipped 5.5p to 16.5p yesterday, investors are still looking at a near 10 per cent gain. But that was the easy part. Further advances will be harder to achieve.

Brokers were shading down their full year profit forecasts yesterday to £100m

### Shandwick slow to grow

Public relations companies do not have a particularly impressive record on the stock market and there is a plausible line of argument that they should not be publicly quoted at all. There is a good reason for that - when a business's assets go up and down in the lift every day, the quality of earnings they generate is necessarily extremely volatile. Add in the fact that the companies tend to be small, dependent on one country's economy and vulnerable to cuts in discretionary spending and it is a wonder that so many have tried their luck on the stock market.

The volatility of the sector has been no better exemplified than by Shandwick, as dependent as any of its peers on keeping hold of temperamental, ex-

pensive staff. In most other regards, it looks dangerously like a proper company, albeit a pretty dull one.

Profits for the 12 months to October, announced yesterday, showed record revenues of £122.3m which resulted in a 20 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £9.2m. Earnings per share were a slightly better-than-expected 4.9p, allowing the dividend to be lifted 10 per cent to 1.43p for the year.

The main difference between Shandwick and many of its rivals is that it genuinely has a global business, which means it can offer a world-wide communications service to clients. For clients such as Digital and MasterCard, that central control of their international image is very attractive.

Elsewhere, Shandwick's interactive arm, which designs, maintains and markets Web-based communications on the Internet, looks well placed to benefit from the rush by companies to create a presence on the information superhighway.

The trouble with Shandwick is that all this carefully packaged good news is slow to show through. Earnings per share have bounced between 4p and 6p ever since the company recovered from 1991's disastrous losses and the

shares, once they had rocketed from the 4p at which the market had severe doubts about the company's future, have done little in the past three years.

At 55p, up 3p yesterday, the shares trade on an undemanding price/earnings ratio of 11. If growth continues at the current level the shares look reasonably attractive, but given the inherent instability of the business, they are not worth chasing much higher.

### More shocks from 600 Group

The 600 Group is a salutary lesson in the need to read between the lines of even apparently positive comments from companies. As recently as November the machine tool maker put out a statement saying: "The UK market has been fairly quiet since the summer but inquiry rates are increasing and we anticipate continued growth during the second half of this financial year and into next." Yesterday a profit warning sent the shares into free fall.

Having peaked at 300p early last summer the shares have been in retreat ever since, proving that the market is often a better guide to a company's fortunes than its own assessment of events. Yesterday's 55p fall to 144.5p represented a 28 per cent slump. It has been some roller-coaster ride - at the beginning of 1994 the shares could have been picked up for 30p.

As ever on the day of a profit warning it is hard to know if the market has over-reacted but given the disparity between the company's growing confidence in November and yesterday's admission that summer weakness "continued during the last quarter of 1996", the market was probably right to be cautious. Analysts took the warning badly yesterday, slashing their forecasts from an average of just over £14m to about £11m for the year to March with £12.3m pencilled in for the following 12 months.

What is puzzling about yesterday's share price fall is that it seems out of all proportion to the scale of the company's problems. Destocking is holding back sales of the company's lathes but profits, while lower than expectations, are still expected to match last year's result. Demand at home is set to improve, 600 said yesterday, and the group's market share should continue to rise in the US and rest of the world.

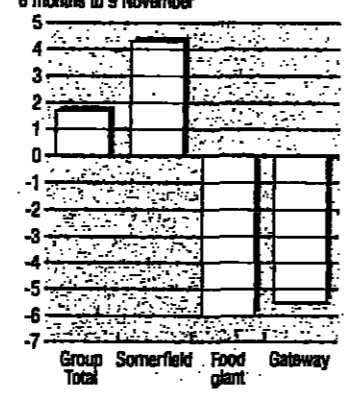
On the basis of forecast profits, the shares trade on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 10 in the year to March. That is about right until the picture clears.

### Somerfield: At a glance

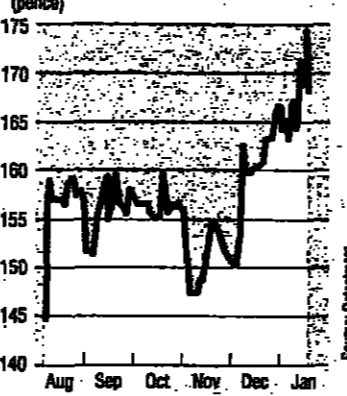
Market value: £597m, share price 16.5p

	1994	1995	1996	1997
Turnover (£bn)	9.1	9.1	9.4	9.7
Pre-tax profits (£m)	37.5	(33.8)	91.8	43.0
Earnings per share (pence)	6.4	(19.4)	23.4	10.2
Dividends per share (pence)				3.4

### Like for like sales (%)



### Share price (pence)



## Life Sciences succumbs to £236m offer

Magnus Grimond

Life Sciences International yesterday succumbed to a £236m offer from Thermo Instrument Systems of the US, which claims to be the world's biggest analytical instruments group.

News of the 135p-a-share cash offer sent shares in the London-based scientific instruments group chaired by Sir Christopher Bland soaring 41.5p to 134p. The terms of the offer will allow shareholders to keep a 3p-a-share second interim dividend the group said it planned to declare for last year.

The takeover is the second UK purchase in less than a year for Thermo, which bought Fisons' scientific instruments business in a £154m deal last March. It also comes less than 12 months into a revival plan instituted at Life Sciences by Riccardo Pignucci, the American chief executive who joined from US scientific instruments group Perkin-Elmer last March with a brief to turn the group round.

If the takeover goes through, it will end four years during which Life Sciences' shares have slumped from a peak of 179p in February 1993. After growing strongly in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the group ran into problems two years ago ranging from a disappointing acquisition to hold-ups with the US medical budget and disruption caused by consolidation amongst the big drugs groups which represent its main customers.

In September, Mr Pignucci announced a plan to split the group into four businesses, which Thermo revealed yesterday would result in a £7m ex-

ceptional charge in the 1996 figures. Partially offset by a £3.7m gain from closing out certain foreign exchange contracts, this would leave profits at £23.7m for 1996, the company estimated, below the record £28.5m declared for 1994, but in line with analysts' forecasts.

Mr Pignucci described the Thermo offer as a good one. "Our major brief was to increase shareholder value, however that happens. We were on our way to achieving a restructuring of the company, but when we got a cash offer at 50 per cent over our share price, you have to think."

He estimated that the company would have had to raise the share price to around 170p to 180p over two years to arrive at an equivalent value to the bid, even before taking account of the risk that the restructuring or the markets might turn sour.

Mr Pignucci and five other executive directors of Life Sciences have agreed terms to stay on with the group for six months if the Thermo takeover goes through. Although he said he saw no reason to depart, if he decided to leave Mr Pignucci stands to pick up a severance package comprising a pay-off in the region of £940,000 and option profits of around £130,000.

Thermo Instrument, capitalised at around \$3.2bn on the American Stock Exchange, is the largest part of Thermo Electron Corporation, which manufactures a wide range of medical, paper making, energy and industrial equipment.

The company said Life Sciences would add laboratory supplies, handling equipment and clinical instrumentation to its existing strength in analytical instruments.

## Cheer at Surrey Free Inns as profits leap

Tom Stevenson  
City Editor

Surrey Free Inns justified its sparkling performance on the Alternative Investment Market since the middle of 1995 with a 72 per cent jump in pre-tax profits in the half-year to November. The creator of the Litten Tree chain of pubs slipped 7.5p to 422.5p on profit-taking yesterday but the shares have still risen more than six-fold in 18 months from a low of 70p.

Tony Hill, managing director,

said: "We have had an excellent start to the year, demand at all our new sites is meeting expectations and our development programme is on track."

Pre-tax profits of £1.04m compared with £600,000 in the comparable period in 1995, struck from a 19 per cent increase in sales to £6.9m. Earnings per share increased by 45 per cent to 8.7p and the interim dividend rose 25 per cent to 1.25p.

Mr Hill said Surrey Free Inns, which started life 10 years ago as a property-based BES

scheme investment, was piloting a branded café concept to be called Bar Med to run alongside the Litten Tree pubs. He said running out a second brand would allow the company to double its exposure in fashionable areas such as Chelsea and Fulham, where the market could not sustain two of its large-scale pubs.

A move up from AIM to the main market is planned for this year to distance the company from a market which has underperformed the main market in recent months.

Mr Hill said tax relief enjoyed by some Surrey shareholders would not be affected by the move.

The Litten Tree pubs, described as a cross between JD Wetherspoon and Yates Wine Lodges, have succeeded in generating high returns on capital employed by segregating its aircraft hangar-sized outlets into different areas to cater for drinking, eating, watching television and business meetings at different times of the day.

Throughout the day the atmosphere and lighting are

changed so that a room used for drinking coffee in the morning might become a dancing venue for a younger crowd in the evening. By constantly shifting activities in the pub, Surrey aims to maximise the number of customers passing through a fairly fixed-cost base.

According to Mr Hill, trading continues strong at both outlets and the new sites opened over the past year.

He said Surrey was well on the way to achieving its target of at least eight new developments during 1997.

## Gulf turns up heat in Clyde battle

Tom Stevenson

The war of words between Gulf Canada and its British target Clyde Petroleum intensified yesterday as Gulf launched a scathing attack on Clyde's two recent defence documents.

Warning that it had never before increased an offer in a bid situation, Gulf unsettled the market in Clyde shares which from the outset of the hostile takeover attempt have traded above the value of the 105p, £432m offer.

Clyde's shares closed yesterday 2.5p lower at 120.5p after Gulf chief executive JP Bryan said the defence "represented a desperate attempt to obscure reality with irrelevant facts and spurious valuation methodologies".

At that level, the shares are still ahead of the cash offer price, but well below the 160p fair value the target's latest defence circular suggested for its shares.

Roy Franklin, chief executive of Clyde, responded in kind. "This is predictable rhetoric. Gulf's imaginative use of numbers and timings is a complete irrelevance. Nothing in this document undermines our case. The success of our strategy is self-evident."

Gulf's latest attack focused on the long-term track record of Clyde. During the six years prior to its offer, Gulf said, Clyde's market value had diminished by £149m, its share price had fallen by 45 per cent in the same period and it had failed to pay a dividend in four out of the last 10 years.

Clyde responded that it had been a recovery play since 1993 and questioned the validity of drawing attention to its performance before that time, which coincided with the appointment of Roy Franklin as chief executive.

Gulf also ridiculed Clyde's attempt to focus on a multiple of cash flow as the most appropriate valuation method for an oil company rather than net asset value.

Clyde has until next Tuesday to complete its defence and Gulf another week to finalise its offer.

## Triplex ups the ante with £72.6m Cook bid

Magnus Grimond

Triplex Lloyd yesterday sharply upped the ante in its bitter battle for rival Midlands castings group William Cook by raising its bid by more than 25 per cent to £72.6m and declaring its offer final.

The higher offer was immediately rejected by Cook and drew a mixed reaction from the stock market, with one big shareholder saying it was "not obviously a knock-out".

Triplex shares dropped 11p to 192.5p, while William Cook's gained 5p to 380p. At that level, Cook's shares still remain 5p below the new bid terms of 21 new shares plus £37.40 in cash for every 20 in Cook. There is a cash alternative of 383.4p a share.

Colin Cooke, the Triplex chairman, said they had decided to raise the offer in line with

Cook's original profit forecast of £10.7m for the current year to March, increased over the weekend to £11m. The group has also raised its forecast savings from £1.5m to £2.5m.

The new bid represented an exit price/earnings ratio of 10.8, which is exactly the same as the original terms - "reasonable, [but] not over the top", Mr Cooke claimed.

They had looked at the forecast and it "appears sensible", he said. The difference between analysts' expectations of around £8m at the time the original offer was made in November and the current forecast related to an apparent reversal of the fall in order books revealed at the interim stage and the decision to cut refurbishment costs in the second half.

But he hit out at claims by Andrew Cook, the William Cook chairman, that the new

bid still "massively undervalues" the company. "From buying in shares and saying there is no future for the company, now we are seeing sunshine in the air and daffodils in the garden... it is time shareholders got some fair treatment from Mr Cook."

The Cook chairman said the new offer "may no longer be ludicrously low, but it remains manifestly low." He claimed it was worth 10.5 times forecast earnings, a 31 per cent discount to the market, or 8.7 times if £2.2m of refurbishment costs were added back to the £11m forecast.

One of William Cook's big institutional shareholders last night lent support to that argument, saying: "Superficially [the new bid] doesn't look all that impressive. There will be a lot of shouting to come, but it's not obviously a knock-out."



'Manifestly low': Andrew Cook wants a better offer

## Britannia closes its doors on carpetbaggers

John Willcock  
and Nic Cicutt

Britannia Building Society yesterday forced to close its doors to speculators after being hit by a tenfold increase of new account openings from carpetbaggers hoping to get free shares if it converts to a bank.

The society said it had decided to close temporarily its instant access account, which requires a minimum balance of £500, to new customers after more than 7,000 people clamoured to become members.

Other accounts with a higher

opening deposit are still open. A spokesman added that Britannia had been forced to act after queues began to form at all of its branches in the wake of reports suggesting that its demutualisation was imminent.

John Heaps, Britannia chief executive, said: "This is not on the agenda and there are no fast bucks to be made from Britannia. We have said repeatedly, Britannia will not convert and there is no windfall in prospect."

The new windfall frenzy to grip the Britannia came amid signs that the Building Societies Bill, long touted as offering

protection to mutuals from the unwelcome attention of converting societies, including Halifax, Woolwich, Northern Rock and the Alliance & Leicester, may not make it on to the statute book after all.

Angela Knight, Treasury Minister, is hoping to find parliamentary time for the Bill, which removes a five-year protection from takeover against former societies which themselves move against other financial targets.

A Treasury spokeswoman said it was still hoped the Bill could make its way through the Commons.

However, it is believed that unless time is given to the Bill in the next few weeks, the increasing likelihood of an early general election may lead to it being lost. Despite the likely failure of the Building Societies Bill to succeed, evidence mounted of the continuing resilience of societies. Figures from the Building Societies' Association showed its members lent £13bn last year, 48 per cent more than in 1995.

By contrast, lending by members of the British Bankers' Association was up just 5 per cent on 1995 despite the addition for the first time of National &

Provincial, taken over by Abbey National, and the first full year of lending within the banking sector by Cheltenham & Gloucester.

Rob Thomas, analyst at UBS, the Swiss banking group, said: "The building societies have succeeded in pushing their share of lending up from 60 to 70 per cent in the past year... those loyal to mutualism have been the most competitive."

Mr Thomas pointed to the mounting competition between banks and mutuals for the decision yesterday by Abbey National to raise its savings rates by up to 0.6 per cent on some accounts.

### Company Results

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Barbour Index (I)	7.25m (6.50m)	1.90m (1.57m)	7.5p (6.2p)	3.15p (2.0p)
Debenhams (F)	28.6m (18.5m)	2.27m (1.25m)	11.7p (5.3p)	- (-)
Fletcher King (I)	2.13m (2.31m)	72,000 (49,000)	0.5p (0.3p)	0.5p (0.5p)
Shawfield (F)	181m (167.8m)	8.2m (2.5m)	5.5p (1.7p)	1.40p (1.3p)
Somerfield (I)	1.71m (1.68m)	54.8m (43m)	15p (10.2p)	3.4p (-)
Surrey Free Inns (I)	6.89m (5.79m)	1.04m (0.8m)	8.7p (5p)	1.25p (1p)

(F) - First (I) - Interim (D) - Nine months



e. Greg Wood reports



ids down Photograph: Reuters

# Closed roof opens new arguments

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Melbourne

The Australian Open quarter-finals came in out of the heat yesterday but not everything was happy about it. For the first time ever, the Centre Court roof was closed to protect players and spectators from heat exceeding 40°C in the shade and more than 60°C in court.

Although players wilted and complained in similar conditions the previous two days, the tournament referee, Peter Bellingier, did not have the option of closing the roof because it would not have been fair to all the competitors: some would have played in the heat and some avoided it.

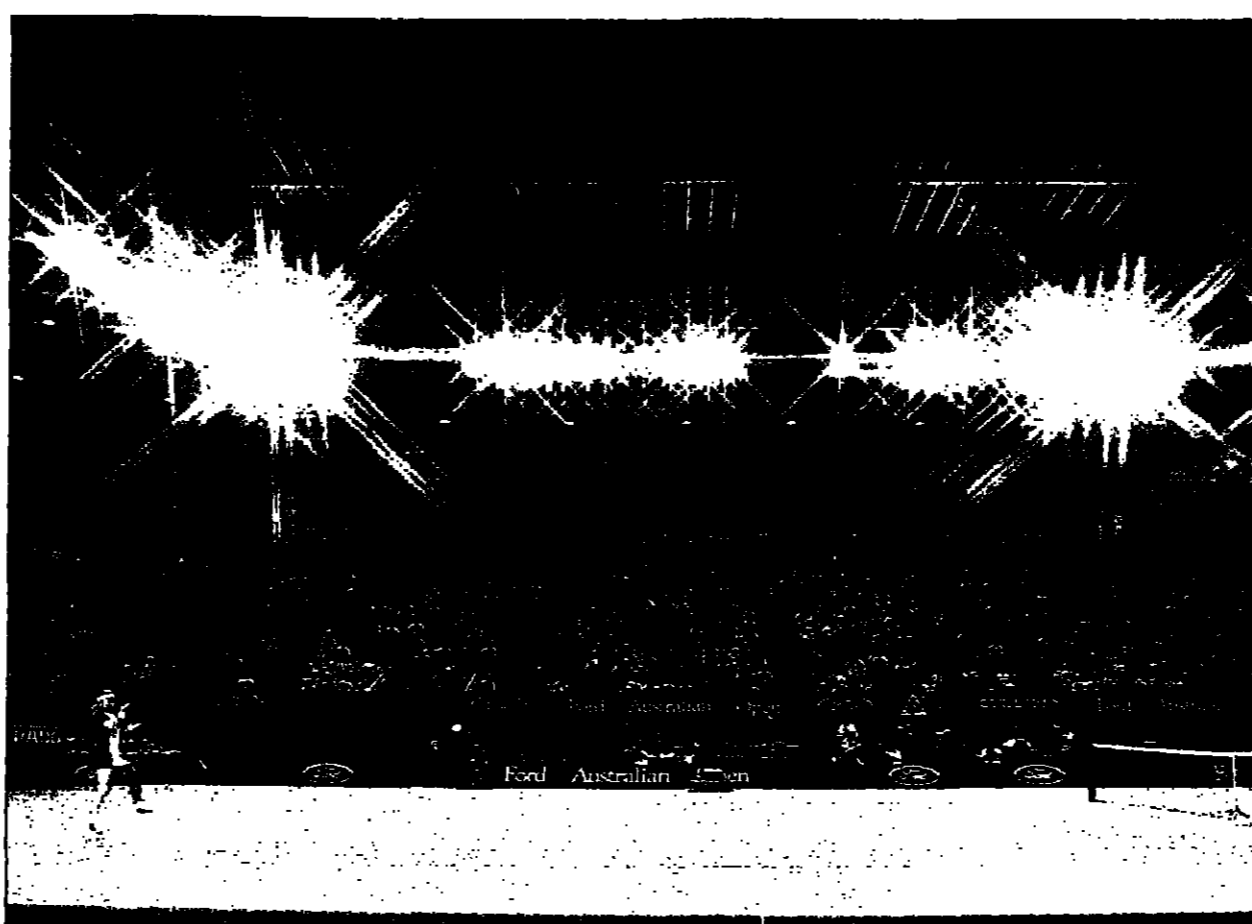
Before the quarter-finals, which yesterday saw Carlos Moya, Michael Chang, Mary Pierce and Amanda Coetzer all win, some singles matches are played on Centre Court, and others on outer courts with no roof. But starting with yesterday's games, all singles matches are on the 15,000-seat Centre Court and the roof can be closed at Bellingier's discretion if temperatures reach 35°C.

Still, some players wanted the roof open so their fitness or playing style, better suited to wind and sun, might give them an edge. "I was going to play anyway so even if it's snowing, raining or 60 degrees I don't care," the unseeded Moya said after beating his fellow Spaniard Felix Mantilla in four sets.

## Semi-final line-ups

**MEN'S SINGLES**  
P SAMPRAS (US) v A COETZER (SA)  
V G HANSEVIC (CRO) v T MISTER (AUT)  
M CHANG (US) v C Moya (Sp)  
**WOMEN'S SINGLES**  
A COETZER (SA) v M Pierce (Fr)  
D Van Roost (Bel) v M HINGIS (Swi)  
I SPIRLEA (Rom)

"I think it may have been a different match in the sun and wind," a furious Mantilla said. Bellingier said: "We haven't had 40-degree temperatures in Melbourne for eight years. I thought it was better for the game, for the players and for the public, to be able to view the game in relative comfort. I think in all this, the public deserves some consideration." Moya had to put friendship aside as he disposed of the 14th-seeded Mantilla 7-5, 6-2, 6-7, 6-2. Once considered just another Spanish clay-court base-



Roofed-in: Centre Court was closed because of the heat for the first time at the Australian Open yesterday Photograph: Reuters

liner, Moya has grown in confidence since beating the defending champion, Boris Becker, in the first round. Yesterday he regularly came to the net. It was Spain's best performance at the Australian Open since Andres Gimeno lost the 1969 final to Rod Laver.

Moya now meets Chang, the world No 2, who reached the semi-finals for the third successive year. Chang, who has not won a Grand Slam event since the French Open eight years ago, ruthlessly disposed of the ninth-seeded Chilean Marcelo Rios 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 in just under two hours.

Chang has dropped only one set in his past five matches at Melbourne Park. He was a beaten finalist here last year and has also been runner-up at the French and US Open in the past two years. He said he did not feel under any pressure.

"I'm not too concerned about whether or not I'm able to win another Grand Slam title and stuff like that," he said. "I like to think things are getting better and better... I still feel like my best tennis is ahead of me."

# Tyrrell spurred on by old boy network of F1

Derick Allsop meets a man relishing the start of the grand prix season

Formula One is an ever-shifting landscape, but some things never change and, as regular as Old Father Time, and despite recent indifferent performances, Ken Tyrrell duly appeared for his annual launch.

This time, however, there was cause for renewed optimism and purpose. The season beckoning is Tyrrell's 30th, and he faces a reinforced challenge as he confronts the prospect of a midfield contest with Jackie Stewart, his most distinguished old boy.

Stewart's much-trumpeted arrival as a team chief appears to have sharpened Tyrrell's appetite. Stewart has secured a factory deal with Ford for V10 engines while Tyrrell, having parted company with Yamaha, has Ford V8 units, but defeat at the hands of the man who won three world titles in his car is a scenario he dreads not contemplate.

Tyrrell, who unveiled his latest car in London's Leicester Square on Monday night, said: "I told Paul, Jackie's son, to tell his dad we're going to blow him into the weeds. Paul said I should tell him myself, but I told him I didn't think Jackie could stand the shock."

Good-natured wind-up it may have been, but Tyrrell will be anxious to avoid acute embarrassment when the F1 tour opens with the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on 9 March.

"I'm not thinking about being embarrassed because I don't expect to be beaten by Jackie," Tyrrell said. "He's going to find it difficult, as I'm sure he knows. It's going to be hard to make the jump to running a team in Formula One."

"When we started you could buy a car from someone, which is what we did for the first couple of years. Now it's much more complex, building your own car and setting up the whole organisation. But Jackie is a determined person, and I'm sure he'll make it in the end. It's just that it will take time and people must understand that."

It is taking Tyrrell rather more time than he would have liked to rejoin F1's heavyweights. Stewart's championship successes were back in 1969, 1971 and 1973. The team last won a grand prix in 1983. This season, Tyrrell predicts, he will have a more competitive car/engine package, and believes the signing of the Dutchman Jos Verstappen, in place of Ukyo Katayama, to partner Finland's much-vaunted Mika Salo, gives him one of his strongest driver pairings for years.

"It is my job to get the right package for the team, so recently I've not been doing my job right," Tyrrell said. "We had an appalling season in 1996 - only five points, eighth in the constructors' championship - really bad."

"Ford and Cosworth should give us the reliability we require and Jos is a young driver I have been very impressed with. It was difficult for him when he was first thrown in by Benetton alongside Michael Schumacher - it was an almost impossible situation. But last year with Footwork he looked very good and I'm delighted to get him."

"I'm equally delighted Mika is still with us. People have been trying to take him away from us and I can understand why. He has a lot of talent. I'm sure they'll push one another and that will take the team forward. It's what we need."

You might imagine the last thing Tyrrell needed was a 30th season in the manic world of F1, but he laughs off any suggestions of retirement. "It is still the same for me as it was in 1968," he said. "I have the same enthusiasm, the same nervousness at the start and waiting for our cars to come round at the end of the first lap. I love it."

"This season we want to have a number of podium finishers and show we are capable of running with the top teams. We have to get it right. We should know if we have on 9 March."

# Merricks and Walker prove to be an adaptable double act

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Key West, Florida

Richard Matthews, the British Admiral's Cup team captain, was a happy man at the Key West Race Week yesterday after watching two of his three charges acquit themselves well in the first race.

Matthews was especially pleased with the performance of the Olympic 470 silver medalists, John Merricks and Ian Walker. The pair have already shown they can make the transition to bigger boats by coming second in the UK Melges 24 Championships and in the Gold Cup in Barcelona.

By moving up from 14ft boats, through 24ft and up to Mumm 36 they are showing an adaptability which could take them all the way to an America's Cup. They underlined this yesterday when posting a third in a class fleet in their first Mumm 36 start on Tim Barratt's Bradamante. And on the middle boat, Tony Buckingham's 40-foot Easy Oars, Andy Beadsworth, just pipped for an Olympic medal in the Soling last year, steered another young crew to second place in its class.

Only the big boat, Graham Walker's Corel 45 Indulgence, struggled. Matthews, however, was quick to point out that the purpose of this regatta, which has attracted a record 262 entries, is not a matter of individual race results, but the start of a serious six-month drive to ensure top billing in an Admiral's Cup that will be far from easy to win.

And aiming to make it tougher will be the man who must stand out as the top sailor in the world, the New Zealander Russell Coutts. The America's Cup winner swept all before him last year to re-establish himself at the top of the world match race rankings. Yesterday, he was back in the top slot of class one, racing Canadian John Risley's new 46-footer, Numbers.

In the Melges 24 class the European flag is being carried by the Italian Giorgio Zuccoli, the winner of the Glenfiddich European circuit last year, who is sailing one of the new hulls developed by Rob White in Britain.

The home-grown opposition is strong, with Dave Chapin surprising no one by winning the first race, beating Dave Ullman into second place as Zuccoli hung on to finish fourth in the light conditions.

**INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL**  
LATEST RESULTS AND TOP 50 TEAMS

TOP FIFTY LEAGUE TABLE			
CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 17 AUGUST - 12 JANUARY			
POS	NAME	TEAM	POINTS
1	MR PETER FRANKENTHAL	JOSI MARTI	649
3	MR SIMON DRAPER	PLATE E.C.	627
5	MR P FRANKENTHAL	ARLENSU	624
7	MR WILLIAM BARR	KRUEGER F.C.	620
9	MR G MURPHY	CLEAN SHEETS F.C.	616
11	MR NICK NIGHT	KNIGHT'S NANA HEAD	614
13	MR PAUL MATTHEW	THE DOOR MAT	612
15	MR R PRINGLE	DEEPOALE VILLA 7	610
17	MR C NOBLE	T.O.F.T.	610
19	MR RICK YAP	OUT OF MIND	609
21	MR JONATHAN MCCROSSEN	WASH TOP ARMY	608
23	MR BILL COOPER	YEP MOP 2000	606
25	MR ANDREW BURMAN	WIMBLEDON STUPID HEADS	606
27	MR K B MALCOLM	INTER MALCOLM	607
29	MR DARREN GREEN	FOR THE AZURE	605
31	MR D R KENNEDY	HAMMERS UNITED	605
33	MR RAYMOND CHICKEN	ALLYE MEN FROM UNCLE 2	604
35	MR STEVEN HART	KEE'S COWBOYS	603
37	MR M THOMAS	BAGGY BOYS IN STRIPES	603
39	MR JOE GOODING	TEAM SQUIDLIPS	603
41	MR LAN ZEIDER	THE FOOTBALL BANDITS	602
43	MR DAVID ASHTON	THE LODGERS	602
45	MR SCOTT LYNEFF	HOO HA SERENADERS	602
47	MR S LAWRENCE	TESSA'S LITTLE MARVELS	601
49	MR JOHN WANEING	4000 HOLES	601
51	MR ADAM HOGG	BLAGGY HOGG	601

**THE INDEPENDENT**  
Today we publish the latest results in our Independent Fantasy Football game, supported by Philips Energy Saver Light Bulbs.

The Team Market and Scores table published below, shows four scores. The Week 23 (Wk 23) column lists all points scored in matches played between Monday 13 January - Sunday 19 January inclusive. Column B lists all points scored before the transfer period. Column A lists all points scored after the transfer period. The Overall (Ov) column lists the total amount of points scored in all matches played from Saturday 17 August - Sunday 19 January. Also published today is the Top 50 League table (see left). It lists the overall top scoring Independent Fantasy Football managers and their teams for matches played between Saturday 17 August - Sunday 12 January.

Results will be published every Wednesday in The Independent for all games played from the previous Monday to Sunday inclusive. They will also appear the following Sunday, in the Independent on Sunday.

**SCORING SYSTEM**  
4 points for a goal ■ 4 points for a goalkeeper/defender clean sheet ■ 3 points for a successful assist ■ 1 point when a player is selected and plays ■ 1 point for a winning goal ■ 3 points for a manager win, 1 point for a draw ■ Lose 1 point for a yellow card ■ Lose 3 points for a red card

**TEAM MARKET AND SCORES**

Overall score calculated on matches played from 17 August - 19 January; Week 23 score calculated on matches played from 6 January - 19 January

CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W23	PTS	VAL	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W23	PTS	VAL	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W23	PTS	VAL	CODE	PLAYER	TEAM	W23	PTS	VAL
<b>GOALKEEPERS</b>																							
471	Ruddock	LIV	0	2	31	35	3.0	649	Simpson	DER	0	15	2	17	12	836	Hughes	CHV	0	19	26	45	4.7
472	Harbeck	TOT	0	0	0	0	0.0	650	Anscombe	DER	0	19	28	37	22	837	Speiser	CHV	0	19	26	45	4.7
473	Harbeck	LIV	0	0	0	0	0.0	651	Van Der Laan	DER	0	19	28	37	22	838	Dubin	CHV	0	19	26	45	4.7
474	Neville (F)	MU	0	3	13	23	3.7	652	Ephraim	DER	0	19	28	37	22	839	Whelan	CHV	0	19	26	45	4.7
475	Neville (F)	MU	0	3	13	23	3.7	653	Rauch	DER	0	19	28	37	22	840	Ndlovu	CHV	0	19	26	45	4.7
476	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	654	Parkinson	DER	0	19	28	37	22	841	Gabbadani	CHV	0	19	26	45	4.7
477	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	655	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	842	Ward	CHV	0	19	26	45	4.7
478	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	656	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	843	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
479	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	657	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	844	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
480	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	658	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	845	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
481	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	659	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	846	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
482	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	660	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	847	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
483	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	661	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	848	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
484	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	662	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	849	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
485	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	663	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	850	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
486	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	664	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	851	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
487	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	665	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	852	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
488	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	666	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	853	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
489	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	667	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	854	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
490	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	668	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	855	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
491	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	669	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	856	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
492	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	670	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	857	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
493	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	671	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	858	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
494	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	672	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	859	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
495	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	673	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	860	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
496	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	674	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	861	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
497	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	675	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	862	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
498	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	676	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	863	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
499	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	677	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	864	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
500	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	678	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	865	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
501	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	679	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	866	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
502	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	680	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	867	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
503	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	681	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	868	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
504	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	682	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	869	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
505	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	683	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	870	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
506	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	684	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	871	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
507	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	685	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	872	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
508	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	686	Stuart	DER	0	19	28	37	22	873	Sturridge	DER	0	19	26	45	4.7
509	May	MU	0	4	36	27	6.3	687	Stuart														



# Comyn on trail of silver suedehead

**Phil Shaw** meets Hednesford's ex-Villa man with an eye on an Italian's shirt in the fourth round

Cornyn impressed in three First Division games on trial, only to opt for non-League football.

The attraction was the opportunity to combine his secure career in accountancy – he is learning the trade in the practice run by Hestonford's manager, John Baldwin – with playing at what Cornyn calls "a good standard". He explained: "My family thought I was crazy and so did my new team-mates, but the chance may not have been there when I was 32.

"I'm enjoying my football more now. Because it's not my full-time job it's not on my mind constantly. As a professional, if you make a mistake it preys on your mind until the next game. The manager usually says something to you and it'll be pruned over in the media, which can get you down.

There are times when you could do with a break for a few days. Now I might be stuck in a dead end for a week and the football is a fantastic release. It's something to look forward to like I did as a kid.

"Who's to say I'd have been in the Albion team anyway? When they played Wolves the other week I thought: 'I'd like to have been involved in that'. Then again they'd love to be playing in the fourth round."

The Cup, in which the Pioneers have progressed from the first qualifying round in September, was the last thing on Cornyn's mind when he arrived



## Toshack targeted by club inquiry

Supporters replied swiftly by daubing the Riazor ground in anti-Toshack graffiti. Toshack has also come under fire from Rafael Martin Vazquez. The former Spanish international midfielder is one of many players in Deportivo's gifted squad who believes he is not selected often enough.

## Parry rejects imports claims

Country	Players	Other EU	Non EU	Total
Spain	484	33 (6.8%)	107 (22.1%)	140 (28.9%)
Germany	369	93 (23.3%)	16 (4%)	109 (27.3%)
Portugal	502	24 (4.8%)	113 (22.5%)	137 (27.3%)
Italy	508	44 (8.7%)	51 (10%)	95 (18.7%)
France	407	24 (5.9%)	51 (12.5%)	75 (18.4%)
England	740	65 (8.8%)	28 (3.8%)	93 (12.6%)

working party formed after the 1995 European Court ruling, when European football's governing body was forced to scrap the three plus two ruling on non-national players appearing in club teams, with no restrictions on European Union nationals. "The situation on foreign imports in the Premier League is, in my view, a very healthy mix," Parry said. "Out of 740 registered professionals, we currently have 65 non-UK players from the EU and 28 from outside. The suggestion of much higher numbers is made by continuing cost the traditional presence of Scots, Irish and Welsh players if they were foreigners."

in my view, a very healthy mix," Parry said. "Out of 740 registered professionals, we currently have 65 non-UK players from the EU and 28 from outside. The suggestion of much higher numbers is made by continuing to count the traditional presence of Scots, Irish and Welsh players if they were foreigners."

## SPORTING DIGES

## Football

Christian Ziege, the Bayern Munich defender, is to join Milan at the end of the season. The 24-year-old has been linked with Arsenal and Liverpool.

Hugo Florin, the West Ham winger, and the Celtic striker Jorge Cadete are both included in the Portugal squad to face France in a friendly match in Braga tonight.

Kasey Keller, the Leicester City goal-keeper, has been named as runner-up in the US Player of the Year awards. The American striker Eric Wynalda won the award for the second time in his career.

**FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP AND NATIONWIDE FIRST DIVISION SUSPENSIONS:** Sendings off:

D Dobbie (Coventry) 4 matches from end of 3 matches; C. Adams (Middlesbrough) 3 matches from 25 Jan, D. Brown (Aston) 3 matches from 25 Jan, J. Aldridge (Tranmere) 2 matches from 28 Jan, 22 penalty points.

### Ice hockey

NHL: St Louis 6 New York Islanders 4; Washington 3 Boston 2; Buffalo 2 Chicago 1; Philadelphia 1; Montreal 4 Detroit 1; Colorado 4 Florida 2; Vancouver 6 San Jose 1.

### Ice skating

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Bergy, Pratis; dance) (after compulsory dances): 1 O Grimald and Y Pivovarov (Fin) 2.0; 2 A Keyvova and O Dvornik (Cze) 2.0; 3 A Javala and B Pesonen (Fin) 1.2; 4 S Mononen and P Luoma (Fin) 1.6; 5 Lotacheva and I Averbukh (USSR) 2.0; 6 I Romanova and I Yarovoyev (USSR) 2.1; 7 Bittels 1.3. Hampneys and P Adew 5.4.

### Rugby League

Warrington, having lost of Mark Hixson their prop forward, for most of the closing season, now fear that Dallas Meade

(Wales) 7-6 7-2 7-5; H  
(Scot) by C. Richmond and

7-1-3-2-7-4-7-6; D Morley and D Robinson (Eng) bt G Smith and A Thomson (Eng) 7-4-2-7-6-6-7-8. Singles first round: G Halsey (Eng) bt K Kentow (Aus) 7-6-5-7-3; B Berry (NZ) bt T Taylor (Aus) 7-6-7-3; 2-2; M McKinnon (Aus) bt K Schesche (NZ) 7-2-7-0-7-0; T Allcock (Eng) bt A Welch (Guernsey) 7-2-7-4-7-0-7-1.

**Cricket**

Gloucestershire could now be without their captain, Courtney Walsh, until mid-June. Walsh, the West Indies captain, may be on international duty against India and Sri Lanka, who are touring. That would delay the fast bowler's return to Gloucestershire until 17 June, missing almost two months of the Championship and one-day competition.

The Indian pair Saurav Ganguly and Pankaj Dharman have been fined 25

**Rugby Union**  
Bath have appointed Tony Swift as their new chief executive in a boardroom shake-up that will see the former England wing work alongside Bath's multi-millionaire financial backer Andrew Brown and the former chief executive Ed Goodall as part of a three-man management team. Brown, who becomes board chairman, will oversee Goodall's new role will be accountable based.

**CLUB MATCH** RAF 19 Oxford University 3

**Snooker**  
Doug Mountjoy, the Welshman who retired from the pro circuit at the end

**Saratov one point**

night and six clear on aggregate, but veteran Alan Cunningham made a three-pointer with 22 seconds on the clock, putting London another three-pointer away from forcing overtime. However, they were denied by Sergei Maltsev, who scored two free throws after being fouled to tie the game and put Saratov through 143-138 on aggregate.

\_\_\_\_\_

TO KEEP YOUR HANDS BUSY

A black and white illustration of a woman with curly hair, smiling, wearing a dark top. She is positioned on the left side of the page, with her right arm extended towards the center. The background is white with a large, dark, circular shape on the right side, which has a dotted pattern. The text "TO KEEP YOUR HANDS BUSY" is written in a bold, sans-serif font at the top left of the page.

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support for those who want to give

**Upgrading the BIOS**

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26

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Year	Actual (%)	Projected (%)
1950	7.0	7.0
1960	7.5	7.5
1970	8.0	8.0
1980	8.5	8.5
1990	9.0	9.0
2000	9.5	9.5
2010	10.0	10.5
2020	10.5	11.5
2030	11.0	13.0
2040	11.5	15.0
2050	12.0	17.0

